



8/12/2002

Capitol Area Emergency Response Team

Procedures for activating Skywarn nets

The following will outline the procedures for activating a Skywarn weather net.

Stage One

A stage one alert exists anytime the National Weather Bureau in Lincoln issues a severe thunderstorm alert or a tornado alert for Sangamon, Menard or Morgan counties.

At a stage one you are asked to maintain an increased readiness and alert. Pay attention to the local radio or NOAA radio for increased storm activity.

It would also be appropriate to monitor the local 146.685 repeater for activity.

Stage Two

A stage two alert will exist when the National Weather Bureau issues a thunderstorm warning or tornado warning for Sangamon, Menard or Morgan counties.

If you are aware of the warnings, tune in the 146.685 repeater and stand by for net activation. You do not need to check in at this point. You are asked to monitor the frequency.

Stage Three

A stage three alert will exist when a tornado is on the ground in Sangamon or Menard County.

All members are asked to come up on 146.685 immediately. In addition to standing by for Skywarn spotting activity, you should prepare to be sent out for disaster activity. This would include checking out your "to go" kits.

Whoever assumes the duties of net control will activate the net at stage two or stage three and call for check in.

Should the 146.685 repeater be off the air for any reason, tune to 146.805 the alternate repeater frequency.

Based on the perceived level of storm activity and the number of stations that initially check in, net control may or may not activate the calling tree.

Even if you are already on frequency, if the tree is activated and you are called, you are to make your phone calls.

It will be at the discretion of the net control operator as to how many storm spotters he wishes to call out. It will depend on the size of the storm, its location and direction of travel.

He may wish to obtain input from the weather bureau for their opinion of what they expect the storm to do.

Net control may send as few as two or three spotters out, or may wish to send spotters to all 22 spotter locations.

Spotters will be assigned a numbered location that corresponds with the map coordinates provided to spotters in our organization. All references to locations will be by map location and not "at the corner of A and B".

When assigned a location, the spotter will gather any material necessary and leave for that location as soon as possible.

Notify net control when you are mobile.

When you arrive on station, notify net control you are on station and verify you have a readable signal.

Previous training has instructed spotters what to report and what not to report.

Please remember all Skywarn nets are controlled nets and thus random chatting is not authorized.

You will remain on station until relieved by net control or the weather net is closed.

If you must be off station for any reason during an event, please notify net control prior to leaving and report back on station.

Please remember that your safety is paramount. Should you need to move to protect yourself from tornado, hail or any reason...do so immediately. Protect yourself, then communicate when conditions permit.