

WINTER WEATHER REPORTING CRITERIA FOR GRAYSON COUNTY **SKYWARN®**

Winter Storm Watch -- The National Weather Service in Fort Worth generally issues a Watch one or two days in advance of the expected event. This gives us time to prepare anything that hasn't been winterized and to lay in supplies. As the data comes together, generally within 24 hours before the event is expected to start, the weather service will issue either an Advisory or a Warning.

Reporting Criteria for Winter Weather Advisory

1. Snow -- 1-3" in 12 hours
2. Blowing Snow -- visibility less than 1/4 mile AND winds over 20MPH
3. Freezing Rain -- greater than 1/4 inch accumulation
4. Sleet -- greater than 1/2 inch accumulation
5. Freezing drizzle -- light accumulation
6. Combination of any of the above elements, none of which meets warning criteria

Reporting Criteria for Winter Storm Warning

1. Heavy snow -- 4+ inches in 12 hours; 6+ inches in 24 hours
2. Blizzard -- 35+ MPH wind AND visibility less than 1/4 mile for 3 hours
3. Ice storm -- 1/4 inch or more freezing rain accumulation (NOTE: if measuring from a tree branch, use the radius from the center of the branch rather than the diameter to obtain your measurement)
4. Heavy sleet -- 1/2 inch or greater accumulation
5. Winter storm -- combination of events with one meeting warning criteria

How to report:

We will not be called upon to run a net in most winter weather cases. You might try to reach someone on the repeater but it may also be easier to simply send an email message to winterwx@tecoares.org with a description of the event. When filing your report, please include these items:

1. WHO -- Your name and call
2. WHERE & WHEN -- Your location & time and date of observation
3. WHAT -- Observed items (freezing rain/sleet/ice/snow), how long has it been happening (example -- started at 0600 and is continuing at time of report), and/or sustained change (example -- rain started at 0600 and changed to sleet/snow at 0645, it is still sleeting/snowing at time of report)
4. IMPACTS -- (approximate/measured depth of observed item, power out, bridges/overpasses icy, etc.) NOTE: when possible please include whether there is a glaze accumulation on roads/sidewalks OR if it is only on elevated surfaces such as trees/power lines.

If you are mobile during a winter storm, please remember it is always good practice to communicate with someone before you leave and after you arrive at your destination.