

GRAYSON COUNTY SKYWARN® NET STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE

SKYWARN® NET/EOC ACTIVATION CRITERIA:

- **TORNADO WATCH** - When Grayson County is included in a TORNADO WATCH and we receive notification from the National Weather Service Office in Fort Worth, Texas to activate our storm spotters all who have EOC assignments should report to their respective EOC. The Sherman EOC, Grayson County EOC and the Denison EOC at the Central Fire Station will all be in operation if we activate spotters when under a TORNADO WATCH.
- **SEVERE THUNDERSTORM WATCH** - When Grayson County is included in a SEVERE THUNDERSTORM WATCH and we receive notification from the National Weather Service Office in Fort Worth, Texas to activate our storm spotters we will decide if we should bring up all three EOC's or not based on our knowledge of the impending thunderstorm.

OPERATIONS:

- The Grayson County SKYWARN® NET is a DIRECTED NET. The Net Control Station (hereinafter NCS) has control of the net and the frequency it operates on.
- The primary repeater for the Grayson County SKYWARN® NET will be W5RVT, 147.00MHz, offset = +600KHz, ctcss = 100.0Hz.
- The secondary or back up repeater for the Grayson County SKYWARN® NET will be W5COP, 147.28MHz, offset = +600KHz, ctcss = 107.2Hz.
- If both repeaters fail all stations should go to 146.52MHz for further instructions.
- All stations entering the Grayson County SKYWARN® NET must check in with the NCS.
- When checking into the Grayson County SKYWARN® NET give your full call.
- ALL communications MUST go through NCS
- National Weather Service Office in Fort Worth will monitor Grayson County SKYWARN® NET traffic using the ECHO Link Node at the Grayson County Emergency Operating center. NWS can also interject information into the net using the ECHO Link Node. **NOTE:** The ECHO Node will be in the non-conferencing mode during severe weather events and will be reserved for the National Weather Service Office in Fort Worth.
- The WD5U 145.49 MHz repeater, ctcss= 85.4, located in Roston, Texas will be the back up link to the National Weather Service Office in Fort Worth should the ECHO Link Node cease to operate.

- The primary liaison station between the Grayson County SKYWARN® NET and the National Weather Service Office in Fort Worth when using the 145.49 MHz repeater will be David Woods, W5COP. If W5COP is unavailable then the NCS will designate another station to act as the liaison station.
- The liaison station shall check in with the NWS informing them that he or she will be handling all traffic between the Grayson County SKYWARN® NET and NWS.
- The liaison station shall monitor the Grayson County SKYWARN® NET while simultaneously monitoring the Roston Texas Repeater, for NWS traffic and/or repeaters in adjoining counties with active SKYWARN® NETS.
- If the liaison station has information from NWS concerning the safety of any spotter or stations the liaison station just needs to transmit **“PRIORITY”** and the call of the station to whom the **PRIORITY** traffic is to be directed. The NCS and all other stations shall standby until the **PRIORITY TRAFFIC** is passed. The liaison station does not need to ask the NCS for permission to speak to another station in the net if it **PRIORITY TRAFFIC**. The word **PRIORITY** will not be used on the Grayson County Skywarn Net for any other reason.
- Listen, Listen, Listen and Listen to the traffic on the net, it maybe of importance to you and will keep you from transmitting on top of someone else giving a report to the NCS.
- You must get permission from the NCS to talk directly with another station on the net.
- If you leave the SKYWARN® NET frequency please check out with the NCS, likewise when you return to the net frequency check back in with the NCS.
- **DO NOT** change frequencies with out notifying the NCS.
- If you are assigned to a location **DO NOT** move without notifying the NCS. If you must change locations due to a change in weather conditions or you are told to do so by a law enforcement officer or any other public official, do so immediately, then notify the NCS as soon as possible.
- Spotters report **ONLY** what you observe **NOT** what you’ve heard no matter the source!
- Rumors, inaccurate info, hearsay, and unverifiable info can cause alarm and can cast a bad light on us as an organization and amateur radio as a whole.
- Please **DO NOT** give your interpretation of your radar over the air during the net. We will rely on the NWS Fort Worth/Dallas Office meteorologists to tell us what they see on radar.
- Radar at the NCS site will be used to inform mobile spotters of impending danger at or near their location in order to keep them out of harms way.

- Remember we are STORM SPOTTERS not STORM CHASERS. Our job is to report current weather conditions to the NWS Office. Ground Truth reports help the NWS meteorologists in deciding if and when a weather “WARNING” for the area should be issued.
- When you have a report to give, use only the last letters of your call or your full call if you have a 2X2 or 2X1 call.
- Base stations should pause before calling NCS to allow mobiles to pass information (they may be in spotty coverage areas and can easily be covered by a base station.) If possible, base stations should listen for weak stations on the repeater input frequency and relay their traffic if necessary.
- Mobile stations that are tracking severe weather in Grayson County will have **reporting priority**.
- After being recognized by the NCS, be brief and to the point with your reports.
- Give your location first, followed by your WX report. As an example “I am 2 miles north of US 82 on US 377, 1/2” hail, and winds about 50 mph from the west.” Your spotting location is just as important as your WX report. Please state if the wind speed is estimated or measured.
- All hail reports should be by size, ¼”, 1/2”, or 1”. Not objects, pea size, nickel or quarter size.
- Please listen to instructions from NCS for reportable information, hail size, wind speed, cloud formations etc. This information is as requested by the NWS or by the status of the weather alert status.
- Always have an escape route in mind when you are out storm spotting and/or a safe place to head to if the weather deteriorates rapidly. The NCS will try at all times to keep the spotters informed and out of harms way.
- When weather is threatening in the area, **PLEASE** pause longer between transmissions when using the repeater. You may inadvertently delay the start of a severe weather net.
- No ‘clear skies/stars out’ reports. You may give a ‘diminishing weather’ report only if you have previously reported severe weather. The NCS, net traffic and weather permitting, will ask for reports from stations who have previously reported severe weather in order to find the trailing edge of the storm or line of storms. Also no heavy rain or lighting reports please, we are dealing with thunderstorms and these attributes are expected.