

Santa Rosa County FL ARES

SKYWARN
Hazardous Weather Radio Plan



SKYWARN

06/25/2021 Version 1.1

Hazardous Weather Plan

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SKYWARN Weather Spotter Activation

SKYWARN is a group of individuals made up of ham radio operators that are trained and certified to observe weather for the National Weather Service. The NWS Mobile, AL encompasses a 20-county area including southeast Mississippi, southwest Alabama and northwest Florida.

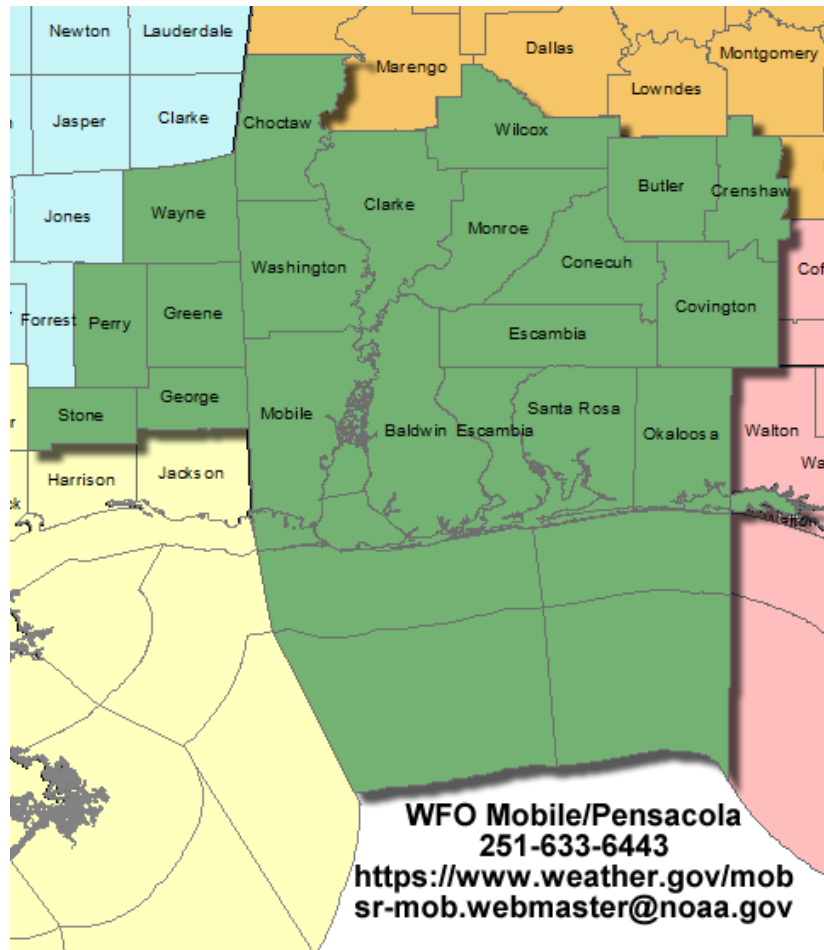
The Santa Rosa County FL ARES team is responsible for the SKYWARN nets that cover the 3 Florida counties under the area of responsibility of the NWS of Mobile, AL. This includes Escambia, Santa Rosa, and Okaloosa.

Procedure

1. When weather spotter activation is anticipated, the National Weather Service Warning Coordinator will contact the SKYWARN leadership and request the activation of the SKYWARN weather spotters. Spotter activation information can also be found in published warnings and the [hazardous weather outlook](#). SRC ARES leaders will notify all personnel via mass Email, text, phone and social media.
2. The Santa Rosa County ARES website (srcares.org) will be updated by the webmaster to reflect the "ACTIVATION STATUS" on its page.
3. A radio announcement will be initiated on all repeaters to be linked announcing the upcoming activation.
4. SKYWARN/ARES leadership will develop a Net Control Station (NCS) schedule to ensure coverage during the anticipated duration of the event. The NCS will maintain an accurate log of all activity and must be fully VHF/UHF capable with back-up power and Internet capability. Please utilize the net control script in [appendix A](#).
 - a. Please read watches and warnings as published within weather chat as soon as possible after issued.
 - b. Net control stations will use an ICS-309 form to log traffic. Please e-mail to the Santa Rosa County Emergency Coordinator once completed.
5. Ham radio operators will monitor the nearest analog repeater linked with SKYWARN personnel in the field.
6. **ALL SKYWARN Severe Weather Nets will be maintained until ordered to deactivate by the NWS Warning Coordinator or SRC ARES leadership.**

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AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY



Mississippi

Stone
Perry
Wayne
Greene
George

Alabama

Mobile
Baldwin
Washington
Choctaw
Clarke
Wilcox
Monroe
Butler
Conecuh
Crenshaw
Covington
Escambia

Florida

Escambia
Santa Rosa
Okaloosa

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WATCHES/WARNING

SPECIAL WEATHER STATEMENTS

The National Weather Service in Mobile, AL is the primary source of severe weather information for the public in our area of responsibility. The National Weather Service will issue watches and warnings to the public and local emergency response agencies as conditions dictate.

Local Emergency Operations Centers and the National Weather Service in Mobile will release information to the media via the Emergency Alert System (EAS), media paging, and fax.

Emergency Operations Center (EOC) Activation

The local Emergency Operations Center (EOC) may be activated for incidents requiring a significant dedication of resources and/or extraordinary interagency coordination.

EOC personnel will notify ARES leadership if and when this is required.

Reporting Damage to the National Weather Service

Basic storm damage reports from observers on the ground will be provided to the National Weather Service in real time to ensure that all relevant information to forecasting is available.

SKYWARN Spotters will provide preliminary damage reports from the field to the Net Control Station (NCS). The information provided will be passed on to the National Weather Service Office in Mobile in real time via Weather Chat (by approved Net Control Stations), phone or by radio. Please be sure to reference [appendix B](#) for providing quality reports.

Public Safety personnel and emergency responders will submit their reports to their respective dispatch centers.

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SKYWARN NETS

Net control stations will be identified by South Alabama SKYWARN and the Santa Rosa County ARES leadership. Training is required for stations wishing to act as net control. Net control stations will be given access to the NWS Weather Chat Online to provide reporting capabilities. Net controllers must login to NWS Weather Chat at least once every 30 days to maintain access.

FREQUENCIES

ANALOG – The following analog repeaters will be linked to the NWS Mobile local 2-meter repeater via EchoLink during SKYWARN Severe Weather Nets. Remember to keep your transmission short, succinct and to the point.

Providing Coverage to Escambia, Santa Rosa, and Okaloosa County

146.700 MHz PL100 K4SRC MILTON, FL Echolink 976547

Providing Coverage to North Santa Rosa and Escambia County Alabama

145.120 MHz PL103.5 KN4JEA Jay, FL Linked to K4SRC

**Additional local analog repeaters may be added as they are acquired or become affiliated. Repeater owners or trustees are responsible for linking their individual repeaters when directed by either SRC ARES or South Alabama SKYWARN leaders.*

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Appendix A – Net Control Script

Report Mode – REPORT Mode is VERY informal and is used primarily for LISTENING for reports. Reading the script is only customary at best and is not time critical.

Read every 15 minutes

A SKYWARN NET is now ACTIVE in **REPORT Mode only**. (*Club Call sign*) _____ is in direct contact with the National Weather Service in Mobile, Alabama. Report Mode is an informal net that is used during severe weather situations that do not warrant a directed SKYWARN Severe Weather Net. This is not currently a directed net, but we are monitoring linked repeaters for severe weather reports.

Every 30 minutes add the following

“The National Weather Service has indicated that there is a THREAT for SEVERE WEATHER within our coverage area. (*Read the list of watches/warnings if possible*) SKYWARN is in **Report Mode only**, and this repeater is restricted to severe weather and emergency reporting. It is very helpful if transmissions are kept short and the repeater squelch tail can drop all the way out between transmissions”.

“When calling SKYWARN, please give your Spotter ID if you have one, and indicate the exact location of the event you are reporting. This includes city AND state, nearest town, road, and intersection. Please do not use landmarks however major roadways are OK.”

Criteria: for Tornado/Severe Weather SKYWARN nets only

“The National Weather Service is looking for reports of the following:

1. Tornadoes, funnel clouds, or rotating wall clouds
2. Hail (please give the size as compared to US coins)
3. Wind gusts in excess of 50 miles per hour measured with an anemometer
4. Flooding of streams, creeks, or rivers out of their banks
5. Roads, or streets made impassable due to water
6. An inch or more of rain accumulation measured in rain gauge in less than an hour.
7. Any damage by wind or lightning
8. Downed trees, large branches, or power lines”

Please do not call SKYWARN if none of these severe weather events is occurring in your area. This is _____ (*club call sign*) standing by for reports.

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Full Activation Mode – Full Activation Mode is a formal net. The frequencies and reflectors should be utilized for Skywarn reports only. Reading the script is only required and is time-critical.

Read every 15 minutes

At the direction of the National Weather Service, the SKYWARN SEVERE WEATHER NET IS ACTIVATED. This is _____ (club call sign) Net Control for this directed net. We are in direct contact with the National Weather Service in Mobile, Alabama.

Every 30 minutes add the following

“The National Weather Service has indicated that SEVERE WEATHER IS OCCURRING within our Area of Responsibility (AOR). *(Read the list of warnings if possible)* This is a directed net, and we are monitoring linked repeaters for severe weather reports. It is very helpful if transmissions are kept short and the repeater squelch tail can drop all the way out between transmissions.”

All amateurs are requested to call SKYWARN NET CONTROL with reports of severe weather. When calling, please give your Spotter ID if you have one, and indicate the exact location where severe weather is occurring. This includes city AND state, nearest town, road, and intersection. Please do not use landmarks, however, major roadways are OK.”

Criteria: for Tornado/Severe Weather SKYWARN nets only

“The National Weather Service is looking for reports of the following:

1. Tornadoes, funnel clouds, or rotating wall clouds
2. Hail (please give the size as compared to US coins)
3. Wind gusts in excess of 50 miles per hour measured with an anemometer
4. Flooding of streams, creeks, or rivers out of their banks
5. Roads, or streets made impassable due to water
6. An inch or more of rain accumulation measured in rain gauge in less than an hour.
7. Any damage by wind or lightning
8. Downed trees, large branches, or power lines”

Please do not call SKYWARN if there are none of these severe weather events is occurring in your area. This is _____ (club call sign) standing by for reports.

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Net Closing Script

“This is (club call sign) Net Control for SKYWARN in contact with the Lead Forecaster at the National Weather Service in Mobile, Alabama.”

“On behalf of the National Weather Service we would like to thank the amateur community for giving SKYWARN traffic priority, for participating in SKYWARN severe weather nets and the repeater owners for the use of their repeaters.”

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Appendix B - Providing Quality SKYWARN Reports

Please remember if there is immediate danger to life or property, call 911

Tornado

Your callsign to Net Control

I have a tornado **<number>** miles to my **<direction>**

I am located at **<cross streets>** in **<City, State>**

- Describe damage (trees, houses, other structures, etc)
- Injuries?
- Strengthening/weakening rotation?

Update net control when it has lifted

Funnel Cloud

Your callsign to Net Control

I have a funnel cloud **<number>** miles to my **<direction>**

I am located at **<cross streets>** in **<City, State>**

- Fast/slow rotation – speeding up/slowing down?
- 50% or more to the ground?
- Can't see if it is behind trees/buildings?

Update net control when it has lifted

Rotating Wall Cloud

Your callsign to Net Control

I have a rotating wall cloud **<number>** miles to my **<direction>**

I am located at **<cross streets>** in **<City, State>**

- Fast/slow rotation – speeding up/slowing down?
- Strong/weak upward rising motion?
- Observed 1+ minutes?

Non-rotating Wall Cloud

Your callsign to Net Control

I have a wall cloud **<number>** miles to my **<direction>**

I am located at **<cross streets>** in **<City, State>**

- Strong/weak upward rising motion?
- Observed 3+ minutes?
- Starting to rotate?

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Damage

Your callsign to Net Control

I have damage at **<cross streets>** in **<City, State>**

- Trees – Uprooted or broken off; diameter of branches for partial breakage or diameter of trunk of tree if completely down
- Homes/Businesses – Roof (shingles off, section off, all off, etc) or walls (section of walls or total destruction)
- Other items of substantial weight that have been broken, flipped, etc.

Wind Gusts in Excess of 50 MPH

Your callsign to Net Control

I have measured wind gusts at **<numbers>** miles per hour at **<cross streets>** in **<City, State>**

Hail

Your callsign to Net Control

I have **<numbers>** sized hail at **<cross streets>** in **<City, State>**

- Advise time if not currently occurring
- Size of the largest hail stone (measured at its widest point)
- Size of smallest hail if it is of a substantial amount

Flooding

DO NOT go into or drive across flooded ares

Your callsign to Net Control

I have flooding at **<cross streets>** in **<City, State>**

- Width of running water
- Depth of running water (if there is an object you can see in the water)
- Objects getting swept away

Heavy Rainfall in Excess of 1" Per Hour

Your callsign to Net Control

I have received **<numbers>** inches of rain at **<cross streets>** in **<City, State>** within **<numbers>** minutes

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Revision Log

16-January 2020	Ver. 1.0	Initial Document for SRC	A. Thames
26-June 2021	Ver 1.1	Corrections to script	A. Thames