

Mid-South SKYWARN Emergency Network Operations Manual National Weather Service Forecast Office Memphis, Tennessee

I INTRODUCTION and ORGANIZATION

1.1 Purpose of This Manual

This manual is designed to be used as a reference guide for Mid-South SKYWARN Emergency Amateur Radio Network operations in the area that comprises the County Warning Area (CWA) of the National Weather Service (NWS) Forecast Office in Memphis, TN. The Memphis NWS office and the Mid-South SKYWARN Emergency Network have a large area of responsibility which includes 55 Mid-South counties in four states. A map of this warning area is located in Appendix 1 of this manual.

1.2 Purpose of SKYWARN

SKYWARN is the NWS national network of trained volunteer severe storm spotters. SKYWARN volunteers support their local community and government by providing the NWS with timely and accurate severe weather reports. These reports, when integrated with modern NWS technology, are used to issue timely and accurate warnings of impending dangerous weather conditions. In addition, working with emergency management officials, SKYWARN spotters can help provide their communities with advance warning of impending hazardous weather.

1.3 Role of Amateur Radio in SKYWARN

Amateur radio has been, and always will be, a vital link in the NWS warning system. Fortunately, in the Memphis CWA there are hundreds of trained SKYWARN spotters who are also amateur radio operators. Amateur radio operators possess many characteristics that make them ideal members of the SKYWARN team. It is the desire of the National Weather Service to utilize to the fullest possible extent all the technologies that amateur radio has to offer.

The SKYWARN Amateur Radio Station and all equipment is either donated by public-service minded amateurs or has been purchased by the National Weather Service. All equipment is maintained by amateur radio operators volunteering their time and expertise.