

Local nets may be formal or informal nets that gather severe weather reports and other information for the NWS and other local agencies. The local nets interact with the primary NWS net so that critical severe weather information can be passed back and forth between the NWS and local officials.

4.2 Activation/Notification of Local Nets

The SKYWARN Amateur Radio Operations Coordinator will attempt to notify (via telephone) the District Coordinators of NWS activation of the SKYWARN net. In turn, the District Coordinator for each area will notify the NWS Net Control Station of the activation of individual SKYWARN local nets in his/her area.

Each local net is independent of the area-wide SKYWARN net which originates from the NWS office, but each net should attempt to establish activation guidelines for use by local officials and area spotters.

4.3 Operation of Local Nets

Local nets are operated under various groups and organizations throughout the CWA, and each net is different. Nets may be either formal or informal gathering places for collecting and disseminating severe weather information. And while each net is independent, it is suggested that all nets throughout the area follow the same basic protocol and gather the same types of information. This practice will ensure uniformity across the entire CWA. The NWS can assist in training local net personnel in net operation procedures.

Net control operators for the local nets are urged to collect severe weather reports from the local area for relay to the NWS. The local NCS should be able to monitor both his local net and the primary NWS frequency.

It is likely that a roving NWS Net Control station will check-in and/or monitor the various local nets from time to time when severe weather is occurring.

4.4 Handling Localized Severe Weather Events

When a localized threat of severe weather exists, individual local nets may be activated, while the primary NWS SKYWARN net is not. In this type of situation, local NCS's and officials should relay reports directly to the NWS, using the restricted telephone numbers provided in Appendix 9 of this manual. Please protect the integrity of these unlisted phone numbers and don't allow them to be used for any but emergency purposes.