

3.1.5 Interaction With The Forecasters

The forecaster who briefs the responder upon arrival at the NWS will likely be the contact person until the NWS shift changes. Please follow your instincts on how and when to pass information to the forecasters. If the information is CRITICAL, bring this information to the forecaster's attention **IMMEDIATELY**. Otherwise, you will need to gauge the situation as to whether the information is important enough to bring to the forecaster's immediate attention or if it can wait a few minutes. It is a delicate balance to make this critical part of net operation successful and it must be handled with discretion, tact and diplomacy by the Responder.

3.1.6 Accepting Severe Weather Reports

The National Weather Service has established guidelines and criteria for determining whether a particular storm is severe. These guidelines are included in this manual in Appendix 7. It is important to learn these guidelines so that you can easily decide which of the many reports received actually constitute severe weather. Reports of damage or actual weather events that meet the criteria for a severe storm should be passed on to forecasters as soon as possible.

Every net activation will be different, and from time to time, the NCS may need to limit the types of reports that are taken over the net or hold certain severe weather reports that otherwise meet the reporting criteria. This situation usually occurs when widespread or extremely dangerous severe thunderstorms and/or tornadoes are occurring. The Responder/NCS must be able to determine, through interaction with forecasters, which reports are the most critical and which ones can be held. Remember, however, that ALL reports meeting the NWS criteria should be logged and saved.

Often, spotters will report events that do not meet the criteria set forth by the NWS for severe weather. And while this can be extremely frustrating to the net control station, the NCS should be as courteous as possible to the report giver. Explain to him the nature of the reports you are looking for, and make note of his location, as you may need to contact him again if severe weather moves into his area.

It is critical that ALL reports received during a SKYWARN activation be logged by the NCS/responder. This includes reports received via VHP, UHF, HF, packet or through other means (EMA). The following information should be included in every report:

1. what is occurring/ what happened?
 - a. tornado, wall cloud, funnel cloud
 - b. hail (MUST INCLUDE SIZE)
 - c. damaging winds (MUST ESTIMATE WIND SPEED)
 - d. flooding (other than minor street flooding)
 - e. wind or hail damage
 - f. other significant weather and/or damage