

NWS Ruskin SKYWARN

Active Mode Script – Remote Operations

Active mode is used any time severe weather warnings are in effect

Note: The NCS will announce warning information every 5-10 minutes or as needed and monitor the frequency for reports for criteria severe weather.

Announce items in **RED**:

This is [insert your name and your call]_____ with the National Weather Service Ruskin SKYWARN. Skywarn is [now] in active mode. This is a directed net, and all traffic should be directed to net control.

The National Weather Service in Ruskin has issued a [insert appropriate warning – severe thunderstorm or tornado] warning effective until [time] for [county names].

(Read warning text)

Remember, a warning means severe weather is imminent or occurring based on radar and/or ground reports.

The National Weather Service is looking for reports of severe weather. This includes:

- **Hail of any size**
- **Measured wind speeds of GREATER than 50 mph**
- **Measured rainfall of 2” or more per hour**
- **Flooding and flash-flooding**
- **Rotating wall clouds, funnel clouds, waterspouts, or tornadoes**
- **Any damage caused by high winds**

This National Weather Service Ruskin SKYWARN Net Control Station will monitor this repeater system for reports of severe weather. National Weather Service Ruskin SKYWARN is in active mode at this time. Once again, please direct all traffic and spotter reports to net control at this time. This is [insert your call] standing by.

See notes next page.

NOTES:

- Take any severe weather reports, log them, and call them in to the NWS staff when possible at the following number: **1-800-282-1228** IMPORTANT NOTE....this line is a “ring straight through” line. That is, you won’t have to go through a phone tree. This number is to be used **ONLY for official SKYWARN** purposes. Please do not give this number out to anyone! If a liaison station is operating from the Ruskin NWS office, pass your reports on to that station instead of calling them in.
 - As an alternative to the 1-800 spotter hot line, please utilize IEM chat for communicating with NWS Ruskin.
 - It is a good idea to give frequent radar updates on air. When describing radar features, focus on the more intense activity.
 - Repeat the above script at least once every 10 minutes. Read any new warnings or updates to warnings at first chance. Also, try to briefly summarize on air all the warnings that are in effect.
 - In the event of extreme weather such as a confirmed tornado on the ground, seek reports from the affected area only and ask stations in other locations to hold their spotter reports until the conclusion of the tornado event. **Example: “This is [insert your call]. We have a confirmed report of a tornado on the ground in [insert location]. We are requesting reports from the affected area only. Other stations, please hold your normal SKYWARN reports at this time. This is SKYWARN net control standing by.”** When the tornado has dissipated, ask stations in other locations for their criteria severe weather reports, if appropriate.
 - Use the following active mode weather references. Questions to ask spotters:
 - For tornadoes:
 - Identifying tornadoes versus funnel clouds
 - Is it rotating?
 - Is it extended down to the ground?
 - Is there flying debris?
 - For severe thunderstorms:
 - Is there any wind damage, such as structural damage or trees down?
 - Is the hail the size of a penny or larger? Ask for coin size comparison.
 - Measuring Rainwater Flooding
 - Using a car: is the water to the wheel cover?
 - Is the water to the base of the car door?
 - Is the road impassable or a hazard?
 - Rushing water or ponding?
 - Is the water over the curb?
 - Is the water into yards?
 - Is there serious flooding?
-

When all warnings expire, but the threat of severe weather continues, you can switch back to Standby mode with the following script:

This is [insert your call] with the National Weather Service Ruskin SKYWARN. The severe weather warnings have expired, and now we will return SKYWARN to standby mode. Once again, the National Weather Service Ruskin SKYWARN is in Standby Mode at this time, and the repeater is open for normal amateur activity. Please leave longer breaks between transmissions for any SKYWARN traffic. Please call in your reports of severe weather to this station. This is [insert your call]

Notes:

- Before returning to standby mode, consider what the radar looks like. It may be better to remain in active mode if there is the likelihood that additional warnings may be issued in a short time.
-

To conclude all Skywarn activity, say:

This is [insert your call] with the National Weather Service Ruskin SKYWARN. The severe weather threat has diminished, and we will now conclude SKYWARN activity at this time. On behalf of the National Weather Service Ruskin and the SKYWARN program, we would like to thank _____ for use of the repeater. We would also like to thank the amateur community for giving SKYWARN traffic priority and all spotters who have participated. The time now is [give time], and I am now returning repeater to normal amateur use. This is [insert your call] clear.