

The SKYWARN Amateur Radio Operations Coordinator, along with his Assistant Coordinators organize the operation of the entire SKYWARN amateur radio network in accordance with the guidance and goals set forth by the National Weather Service. This volunteer position is appointed by the NWS SKYWARN Program Manager to ensure that the person chosen can work well with NWS personnel and to ensure stability in the position. The Coordinator must possess superior communication and coordination skills and should be readily available to the NWS, both for severe weather net activations and for consultation on amateur radio issues. The formal position description of the SKYWARN Amateur Radio Operations Coordinator is Appendix 2 to this manual

Also an integral part of the SKYWARN system is the SKYWARN Advisory Committee, made up of representatives from ten districts (see Appendix 3 for a district map) in the Memphis County Warning Area. These representatives are known as District Coordinators, and are appointed by the NWS SKYWARN Program Manager, in consultation with the Amateur Radio Operations Coordinator. An outline of the Advisory Committee's goals and functions is Appendix 4, while the current listing of Advisory Committee members is in Appendix 5.

Another important part of SKYWARN is the Responder. Responders are selected by the SKYWARN Coordinator and are responsible for manning the SKYWARN amateur radio station at the NWS when SKYWARN is activated. Responders may also serve as Net Control Stations for SKYWARN nets. An outline further detailing the duties of a Responder can be found in Appendix 6 of this manual.

## **1.5 SKYWARN's Relationship to ARRL/ARES/RACES**

Amateur Radio's participation in the NWS SKYWARN program is formally acknowledged and encouraged in a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the American Radio Relay League (ARRL) and the NWS. This agreement states that the ARRL will encourage its local volunteer groups operating as the Amateur Radio Emergency Services (ARES) to provide the NWS with spotters and communicators as needed by the NWS during severe weather.

The Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) is a government supported organization made up of amateur radio operators registered with state, county or local offices of emergency management. In many parts of the Mid-South, these amateurs-are also ARES members. In fact, most counties in the area have combined ARES/RACES units for support during emergency situations.

Many natural disasters in the Mid-South are the direct result of severe weather and/or are exacerbated by severe weather. Accordingly, the NWS may utilize the SKYWARN amateur radio operators not only to obtain and disseminate severe weather observations and warnings, but also to maintain close coordination with emergency management agencies throughout the CWA.