

The Mid-South SKYWARN Emergency Network will coordinate closely with, and seek cooperation from all ARES and RACES groups in the area. The net will not, however, bear the name of, or be directly tied to either ARES or RACES. The net is independent, open to all amateur radio operators in the area. The only requirement for participation is a valid FCC amateur radio license.

1.6 Role of SKYWARN Net Control

The Net Control Station (NCS) is the most critical position in any SKYWARN activation. It is a role that challenges all of an amateur radio operator's communications and technical skills. It is also an extremely responsible position in that the safety of lives and property may rest on the amateur's skills. Although this role is challenging, with proper training and experience, it can also be extremely rewarding when a net is run effectively.

(In this manual, the terms "Net Control Station, and "Responder," are used, sometimes interchangeably. During most SKYWARN activations, it is desirable to have the person running the net, the net control station, located at a place other than the NWS office. Responders are those trained individuals who are physically located at the NWS office during SKYWARN nets.)

It is the purpose of this manual to provide a framework for SKYWARN net operations. While consistency of procedures from net to net is important, no two SKYWARN activations will be exactly the same. Therefore, the net control operator has the authority and responsibility to do everything necessary, within FCC rules, to ensure that the SKYWARN mission is performed to the fullest possible extent.

It is essential that all SKYWARN net control operators and responders be familiar with the operation of the NWS amateur radio station, as well as NWS procedures, to be able to do an effective job. This familiarity is best achieved through frequent, comprehensive responder/NCS training provided by the Coordinator and the NWS. This training, covering all aspects of net management, NWS severe weather operations and equipment operation is mandatory for operators who will be acting as a NCS and/or a responder.

H. NET ACTIVATION PROCEDURES

2.1 NWS Decision to Activate SKYWARN

The NWS activates the Mid-South SKYWARN Emergency Network under the following conditions:

1. A tornado or severe thunderstorm watch is issued that includes one or more counties in the NWS Memphis County Warning Area (CWA);
2. Severe weather is occurring, or is expected to develop, within the Memphis CWA. (This does not generally apply to isolated, short-lived storms.)