

### **3.1.2 NWS Forecast Office Operating Conditions**

When SKYWARN is activated, NWS personnel are usually operating under high tension in a critical weather mode. Forecasters and other staff members are under intense pressure. This means:

1. Any distractions or interruptions of NWS or SKYWARN operations may mean the loss of life or property.
2. Sensitive information such as reports of severe damage or deaths, or injuries may be openly discussed, and such information should not be repeated by SKYWARN volunteers outside the NWS.
3. NO MORE THAN ONE (1) SKYWARN Volunteer should be in the operations area at any one time. The area is very cramped during severe weather and traffic through this area should be kept to an absolute minimum. Ideally, one responder should attempt to position himself as close to the radar/warning position as possible without getting in the way of forecasters.

### **3.1.3 No More Than Three (3) Volunteers at the NWS Amateur Radio Station at One Time**

No more than three (3) SKYWARN volunteers should be in the forecast office at one time. If, for some reason, there are more than three volunteers at the NWS, please take shifts. Off-duty amateurs may monitor the net from their cars in the parking lot. Feel free to establish a simplex radio link to the SKYWARN Amateur Radio Station.

### **3.1.4 How To Volunteer for Net Control Duty**

Responders should NOT go directly to the NWS office or call the NWS office at the first sign of severe weather. To be an effective and well-coordinated system, we must follow protocol:

1. NWS determines the need for SKYWARN activation and notifies the Coordinator or his designate.
2. The Coordinator will then contact Responders, as needed to man the NWS station.
3. In the event that severe weather develops suddenly, and no formal net has been activated, Responders should monitor appropriate SKYWARN frequencies and relay severe weather reports to the NWS via telephone. The Coordinator should be notified immediately, if possible, in such a situation.
4. Responders may contact the Coordinator to inform him of their availability during a quiet time in net operations. Do not be insulted if your services are not needed at that time. As the situation evolves, staffing needs may also change.