



Cherokee County SKYWARN

1 January 2022





References

- [Cherokee County ARES Operations Manual](#) (Chapter 9 Major Focus)



Welcome

Welcome to the Cherokee County, Georgia Amateur Radio Emergency Service®

- While amateur radio is a hobby, we encourage you to participate in our weekly nets, various drills/exercises throughout the year, and be prepared to answer the call from our community when emergency communications are needed.
- We are NOT storm-chasers, nor are we First-Responders.
- We are a dedicated group of amateur radio operators that follow the chain of command.
- We deploy only when requested by our served agency, and only when approved by your Emergency Coordinator of Cherokee County, or one of the delegated Assistant Emergency Coordinators.
- We encourage you to participate and give back to your community and remain prepared to answer the call to service when requested.



Net Communications

Ground Rules for participating during a Directed / Formal Net:

- During a Directed Net, Only use the frequency for official traffic
- **LISTEN.** The **Net Control Station (NCS)** will provide instructions on how to check into the net and what is expected during net activities
- Follow the net protocol established by the NCS
- Report in to the NCS promptly when you arrive at your station
- If you need to talk to someone directly, ask the NCS for permission
- Answer promptly when called by the NCS
- If you leave your station during a Directed Net, Inform NCS
- Do not utilize Q-Signals, 10 Codes, etc. speak normally in clear language. For Example, do not use *QSL* to Acknowledge a message, instead use the word, '**Acknowledge-Over**'. This is important as we will be working with many different Served Agencies and the communications must be fully understood by all parties. (Including National Weather Service, MARS, American Red Cross, Georgia Emergency Management Agency, Local County and City agencies, etc.)



Common Prowords

Below is a list of Common Prowords we shall utilize. Emergency Communications requires clearly spoken language to avoid any confusion or miss-interpretation of meaning:

- **CORRECT / WRONG.** The proword **CORRECT** means "what you transmitted is correct". The opposite is **WRONG**.
- **NEGATIVE / AFFIRMATIVE.** The proword **NEGATIVE** means "No". The Opposite "**AFFIRMATIVE**" meaning "Yes".
- **SAY AGAIN.** The proword **SAY AGAIN** is used to request a repetition of something that was transmitted. The Proword **I SAY AGAIN** means I am about to restate something I have already transmitted.
- **WAIT and WAITOUT.** The proword **WAIT** is used when a pause is required and will last less than five seconds. Wait should not be over-used; you may simply pause a second or two without saying it. **WAIT OUT** means I must pause for longer than five seconds before continuing/responding, in the meantime other stations can transmit as normal.
- **WILCO.** The proword **WILCO** is a contraction of the phrase "will comply". It is used in response to a request or tasking and means that you understand the tasking and agree to accomplish the task. Because it implies you understand the request, it is never used with the proword **ROGER** as that would be redundant.
- **OVER.** The proword **OVER** means, I have finished my transmission, go ahead and transmit.
- **OUT.** The proword **OUT** means, I have concluded my transmission, no reply is expected.
- **ROGER.** The proword **ROGER** means, "I have received the information by you" without indicating approval or disapproval, agreement or disagreement. Do not confuse **ROGER** for **WILCO**.
- **THIS IS.** The proword **THIS IS** means, "The current transmission is from the station who's call sign follows." This proword can be omitted after communications are established.
- **THIS IS A DIRECTED NET.** This proword **THIS IS A DIRECTED NET**, spoken by NET Control, means that until further notice the NET is directed. This means that all stations need permission of NET CONTROL to call other stations. The Opposite is **FREE NET**. In a FREE NET, any station may call any other station without NCS Permission.



Activation of Cherokee ARES

- CC-ARES activations for the EOC are initiated by the EOC Staff by notifying the EC or designated AEC(s). An email is sent via e-mail distribution using [Cherokee ARES Groups.IO](http://CherokeeARESGroups.IO)
- Typical activation will be through the emergency net on the designated repeaters.
 - CC-ARES members should monitor UHAM41/VHAM11 during severe weather or local major events for the standup of SKYWARN or Informal nets.
 - If capable also monitor VHAM13 for reporting requests and real-time information provided from National Weather Center out of Peachtree City GA.
- Email notification to Cherokee ARES members and teams will attempted to be sent through the [Cherokee ARES Groups.IO](http://CherokeeARESGroups.IO) by the EC or AEC(s).
- Last mile, if required, voice-calls and or test messages sent to your cell phone on file with Cherokee ARES will be used.



Activation Procedures

1. Establish an ICS-214 Activity Log. Record your activation date/time, any major significant event that occurs, and when mission is over, record the deactivation date/time.
2. If instructed by your chain of command to deploy, report your departure to the mobilization site and arrival. On demobilization, record the time you leave the area and report to your home station.
 - This is important for accountability.
 - Report these major milestones to your leadership via Voice, Text, Email, any method you can for near real-time tracking.
3. Follow the deployment and demobilization instructions you are provided.
4. Upon completing the mission, develop an After-Action Report.
 - Identifying areas to Improve as well as Sustain.
 - We must take advantage of every opportunity to identify areas to improve before next activation.
 - Submit that report to your Emergency Coordinator and team leader if assigned.



Cherokee SKYWARN





Cherokee SKYWARN Activation Matrix

| National Weather Service | ARES Response |
|--------------------------|---|
| Watch | Activate Cherokee SKYWARN, only if requested by EMA or EC/AEC If requested by EMA, send Team to EOC |
| Winter Storm Warning | Activate SKYWARN if requested by EMA or EC/AEC, Monitor WebEOC If requested by EMA, send Team to EOC |
| Tornado Warning | Activate Cherokee SKYWARN, Monitor WebEOC If requested by EMA, send Team to EOC |
| Tropical Storm Warning | Activate Cherokee SKYWARN, Monitor WebEOC If requested by EMA, send Team to EOC |

***** When in doubt and conditions appear severe for our County, Activate Cherokee SKYWARN and monitor WebEOC**



Cherokee SKYWARN

- The majority of SKYWARN activity in the State of Georgia is coordinated through the NWS Peachtree City (NWS-PTC) office in Peachtree City.
- The amateur station **WX4PTC** is located at the National Weather Service office in Peachtree City, GA.
- You will find during severe weather, **WX4PTC** may link to one of our local Repeaters VHAM13 and/or VHAM18.
- When this occurs listen carefully to the information **WX4PTC** is broadcasting or requesting, while also monitoring our local Cherokee County SKYWARN net.
- Do Not interrupt a SKYWARN NET for non-critical information. Provide Only information that meets the criteria that NET Control is requesting. Follow the guidance of Net Control. Many times, just listening is all you need to do, and then share on our own Cherokee ARES SKYWARN net.
- WX4PTC/Net Control, is looking for critical ground truth to overlay with additional reports or radar indicated activity, in order to adjust the National Weather Service alerts for the affected area or Notify our Emergency Management Agency.



SKYWARN Reporting Format

Follow the specific reporting guidelines. Remain calm, speak clearly, and do not exaggerate the facts. Only provide first-hand reports. Only provide the report if the criteria meets the critical criteria requirements we are looking for. If you are unsure of what you are seeing, make your report, but also express your uncertainty.

Your report should contain the following information:

- **WHO** (including Callsign, Name, and if you are a trained spotter)
- **WHAT** you have witnessed: the specific weather event
- **WHEN** the event occurred: NOT when you make your report
- **WHERE** the event occurred, (not necessarily your location) using well known roads or landmarks



SKYWARN Estimation

Wind Speed (mph) Effects and Estimation

- 25-31 Large branches in motion
- 32-38 MPH -- Whole trees in motion
- 39-54 MPH -- Twigs break off trees, wind impedes walking
- 55-72 MPH -- Damage to TV antennas, large branches break off trees
- 73-112 MPH -- Surfaces off roofs peeled off, windows broken, trailer homes overturned
- 113+ MPH -- Roofs blown from houses, weak buildings and trailer homes destroyed, large trees uprooted, train cars blown off track

Hail size

- BB Less than 1/4"
- Pea 1/4"
- Dime 7/10"
- Penny 3/4"
- Nickel 7/8"
- Quarter 1"
- Half Dollar 1¼"
- Walnut or Ping-Pong Ball 1½"
- Golf Ball 1¾"
- Lime 2"
- Tennis Ball 2½"
- Baseball 2¾"
- Large Apple 3"
- Softball 4"
- Grapefruit 4½"



SKYWARN Reporting Criteria

NET Control is looking for first-hand reports only, that included:

- a. Tornados
- b. Rotating Wall clouds
- c. Hail, include Size of Hail
- d. Winds > 40MPH. (Down Trees, Powerlines, Structural Damage),
- e. Flooding > 6" covering roadway or Streams/River.

DO Not Report, the following:

- Its Raining here
- The wind is blowing here

If that is all you are observing, then exercise Radio Silence and just Listen...



Winter SKYWARN Criteria

NET Control is looking for first-hand reports only, that included:

- Change over from Rain to Freezing Rain
 - Change over from Sleet to Snow
 - Snow – 1-3" in 12 hours
 - Freezing Rain -- greater than 1/4 inch accumulation
 - Sleet -- greater than 1/2 inch accumulation
 - Freezing drizzle -- light accumulation
 - Combination of any of the above elements, none of which meets warning criteria
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- Potential injuries or loss of life due to extreme cold and wind chill (Motorists stuck on roadways)
 - Impacts on the transportation networks (Down trees blocking roadways, Impassible bridges/roadways)
 - Damages to utility infrastructure (Power lines down, Power outages)
 - Commercial and personal property damages or loss.



Cherokee SKYWARN

The following links should be added to your browser, as they are too long to print and type:

- [Georgia ARES Situational Awareness Map](#) This web map is designed as a tool to help Amateur Radio operators in the State of Georgia visualize emergency communications and emergency response infrastructure across the State. All information in this map is drawn from open or public domain sources.
- [N3FJP WX Warning Program](#). This program, while outdated and no longer supports WXSpts, is a valuable tool. You may add filters for our State, Counties, and get alerted near-real-time when Severe Watches or Warnings are issued. (Typically leave this on in the background while running SKYWARN net as another source of information).
- [NWS-Peachtree City Weather Briefings for Severe Weather](#)
- [Watches, Warnings or Advisories for Cherokee \(GA057 Georgia\)](#)



EC and AEC Contact Information

| Position | Name | Call Sign | Email: |
|---------------------------|---------------|-----------|--|
| EC | Rob Bruderer | W1JKU | w1jku@arrl.net |
| AEC (Deputy) | Stephen Price | KK4YQV | kk4yqv@gmail.com |
| AEC (Admin/Registrations) | Mark Schulze | KO4IFY | ko4ify@arrl.net |
| AEC (Reporting) | Randy Kerr | KD4KHO | kd4kho@comcast.net |
| AEC (EOC) | Jim Millsap | K9APD | k9apd@comcast.net |



Participate

Give Back to the Community

Have Fun and Advance your Skills



Thank you!