



# Northwest GA ARES SKYWARN

Training February 8, 2022





# References

- [Cherokee County ARES Operations Manual](#) (Chapter 9 Major Focus)
- Cherokee County ARES SKYWARN Page: <http://cherokee-ares.org/SKYWARN.html>
- Cherokee County ARES NEWS: <http://cherokee-ares.org/news.html>
- SKYWARN Online Training (self paced 2 hours):  
[https://www.meted.ucar.edu/education\\_training/course/23](https://www.meted.ucar.edu/education_training/course/23)

**This presentation can be found on the NW GA ARES Facebook Page and**  
<http://cherokee-ares.org/training.html>



# SKYWARN 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. Check in to your local SKYWARN NET when requested by Net Control.
3. Provide reports only if it meets the thresholds set by Net Control.
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.



# NW GA ARES 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 146.805 (KC4AQS) and/or 146.820 (W4DOC).
- When this occurs listen carefully to the information **WX4PTC** is broadcasting or requesting, while also monitoring our local 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 local 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.



# 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 requirements NCS is 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:**

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



# SKYWARN Estimation

**Print out SKYWARN Estimation Chart and Keep near your Radio for Reference**

## **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 on 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 normally only looking for first-hand reports 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...***



# Northwest GA SKYWARN

The following links should be added to your browser/computer, 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, 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 \(GA057 Georgia\)](#) **(Adjust for your location)**





# Participate

# Give Back to the Community



# 9 February 2022- NWS Tornado Drill

This drill is being conducted as part of *Severe Weather Preparedness Week 7 – 11 February 2022*.

- NOAA Weather Radio shall alert  $\geq$  9am to begin the drill.
- Monitor your local SKYWARN NET and Check in to your local NET, after Net Control establishes the NET.
- Your local SKYWARN NCS shall request your name, location, and if you have had SKYWARN training in the last 2 years, and if you can operate on emergency power.
- At 10am, Each County SKYWARN NCS is asked to pass traffic to the NWGA DISTRICT NET.
  - WD4AOG- Michael will be NCS on 146.700 backup 145.430 Repeater.
  - **Only** your Local NCS should be providing reports on the District NET, but you are encouraged to listen if not NCS.
  - Local NCS can also send report to WD4AOG via Email at [wd4aog@yahoo.com](mailto:wd4aog@yahoo.com)



# Thank you!

**Reminder: This presentation can be found on the NW GA ARES Facebook Page and <http://cherokee-ares.org/training.html>**