

Santa Rosa County FL ARES

SKYWARN
Hazardous Weather Radio Plan



SKYWARN

03/11/22 Version 1.2

Hazardous Weather Plan

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SKYWARN Weather Spotter Activation

SKYWARN is a group of individuals made up of ham radio operators that are trained and certified to observe weather for the National Weather Service. The NWS Mobile, AL encompasses a 20-county area including southeast Mississippi, southwest Alabama and northwest Florida.

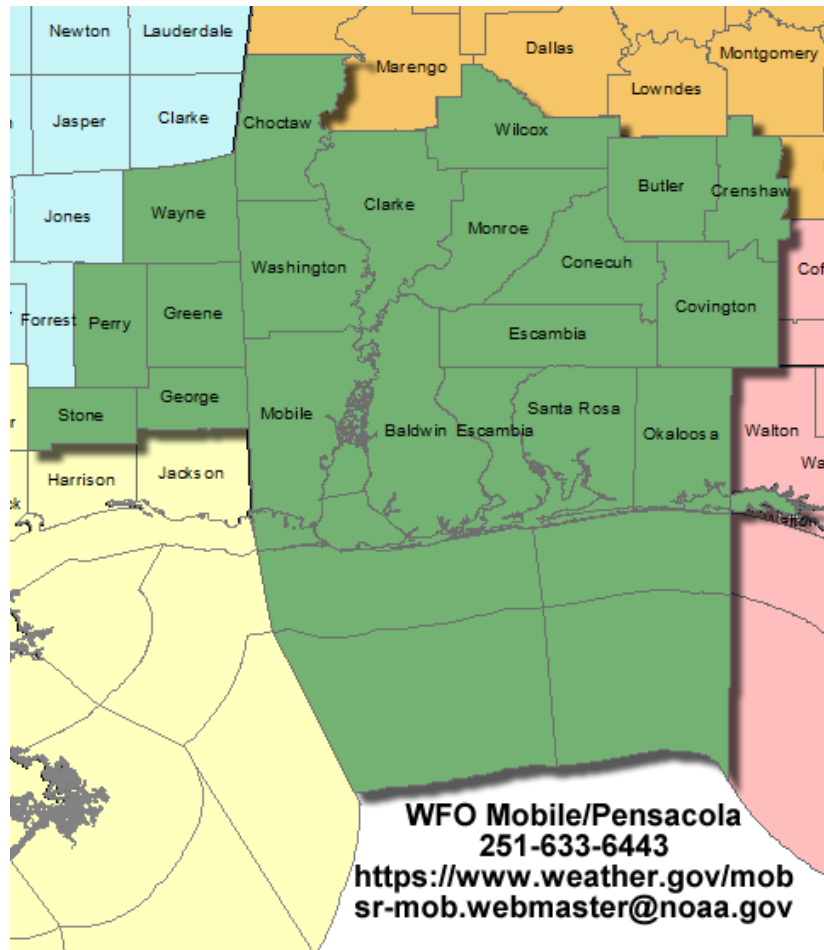
The Santa Rosa County FL ARES team is responsible for the SKYWARN nets that cover the 3 Florida counties under the area of responsibility of the NWS of Mobile, AL. This includes Escambia, Santa Rosa, and Okaloosa.

Procedure

1. When weather spotter activation is anticipated, the National Weather Service Warning Coordinator will contact the SKYWARN leadership and request the activation of the SKYWARN weather spotters. Spotter activation information can also be found in published warnings and the [hazardous weather outlook](#). SRC ARES leaders will notify all personnel via mass Email, text, phone and social media.
2. The Santa Rosa County ARES website (srcares.org) will be updated by the webmaster to reflect the "ACTIVATION STATUS" on its page.
3. A radio announcement will be initiated on all repeaters to be linked announcing the upcoming activation.
4. SKYWARN/ARES leadership will develop a Net Control Station (NCS) schedule to ensure coverage during the anticipated duration of the event. The NCS will maintain an accurate log of all activity and must be fully VHF/UHF capable with back-up power and Internet capability. Please utilize the net control script in [appendix A](#).
 - a. Please read watches and warnings as published within weather chat as soon as possible after issued.
 - b. Net control stations will use an ICS-309 form to log traffic. Please e-mail to the Santa Rosa County Emergency Coordinator once completed.
5. Ham radio operators will monitor the nearest analog repeater linked with SKYWARN personnel in the field.
6. **ALL SKYWARN Severe Weather Nets will be maintained until ordered to deactivate by the NWS Warning Coordinator or SRC ARES leadership.**

Hazardous Weather Plan

AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY



Mississippi

Stone
Perry
Wayne
Greene
George

Alabama

Mobile
Baldwin
Washington
Choctaw
Clarke
Wilcox
Monroe
Butler
Conecuh
Crenshaw
Covington
Escambia

Florida

Escambia
Santa Rosa
Okaloosa

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WATCHES/WARNING

SPECIAL WEATHER STATEMENTS

The National Weather Service in Mobile, AL is the primary source of severe weather information for the public in our area of responsibility. The National Weather Service will issue watches and warnings to the public and local emergency response agencies as conditions dictate.

Local Emergency Operations Centers and the National Weather Service in Mobile will release information to the media via the Emergency Alert System (EAS), media paging, and fax.

Emergency Operations Center (EOC) Activation

The local Emergency Operations Center (EOC) may be activated for incidents requiring a significant dedication of resources and/or extraordinary interagency coordination.

EOC personnel will notify ARES leadership if and when this is required.

Reporting to the National Weather Service

Basic storm damage reports from observers on the ground will be provided to the National Weather Service in real time to ensure that all relevant information to forecasting is available.

SKYWARN Spotters will provide preliminary damage reports from the field to the Net Control Station (NCS). The information provided will be passed on to the National Weather Service Office in Mobile in real time via Weather Chat (by approved Net Control Stations), phone or by radio. Please be sure to reference [appendix B](#) for providing quality reports.

Public Safety personnel and emergency responders will submit their reports to their respective dispatch centers.

Net Control Stations

Be sure to provide as much detail as possible to the NWS. Do not report in NWS Weather Chat if the report provided does not meet the criteria that the NWS has requested. For example, a wind gust of 15 MPH would not be reported to NWS. When you have received a good, full report from a spotter, enter it in to NWS Weather Chat similar to this example:

Spotter report from the intersection of Street A and Street B in Milton, FL – Wind gusts of up to 52MPH within the last 5 minutes.

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SKYWARN NETS

Net control stations will be identified by Santa Rosa County ARES leadership. Training is required for stations wishing to act as net control. Net control stations will be given access to the NWS Weather Chat Online to provide reporting capabilities. Net controllers must login to NWS Weather Chat at least once every 30 days to maintain access.

FREQUENCIES

ANALOG – The following analog repeaters will be linked to the NWS Mobile local 2-meter repeater via EchoLink during SKYWARN Severe Weather Nets. Remember to keep your transmission short, succinct and to the point.

Providing Coverage to Escambia, Santa Rosa, and Okaloosa County

146.700 MHz PL100 K4SRC MILTON, FL Echolink 976547

**Additional local analog repeaters may be added as they are acquired or become affiliated. Repeater owners or trustees are responsible for linking their individual repeaters when directed by either SRC ARES or South Alabama SKYWARN leaders.*

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Appendix A – Net Control Script

Read every 10 minutes

At the direction of the National Weather Service, the SKYWARN SEVERE WEATHER NET IS ACTIVATED. This is K4SRC, operator _____ (your callsign) Net Control for this directed net. We are in direct contact with the National Weather Service in Mobile, Alabama.

At the start and every 30 minutes add the following

The National Weather Service has indicated that SEVERE WEATHER IS OCCURRING within our Area of Responsibility (AOR). *(Read the list of warnings if possible)* This is a directed net, and we are monitoring for severe weather reports.

All amateurs are requested to call SKYWARN NET CONTROL with reports of severe weather. When calling, please give your Spotter ID if you have one, and indicate the exact location where severe weather is occurring. This includes city AND state, nearest town, road, and intersection. Please do not use landmarks, however, major roadways are OK.

Read the below criteria on the air every 30 minutes as well

Read the text of warnings immediately when issued from Weather Chat. Do not speculate or forecast, only read the information provided.

Criteria: for Tornado/Severe Weather SKYWARN nets only

The National Weather Service is looking for reports of the following:

1. Tornadoes, funnel clouds, or rotating wall clouds
2. Hail (please give the size as compared to US coins)
3. Wind gusts more than 50 miles per hour measured with an anemometer
4. Flooding of streams, creeks, or rivers out of their banks
5. Roads, or streets made impassable due to water
6. An inch or more of rain accumulation measured in rain gauge in less than an hour.
7. Any damage by wind or lightning
8. Downed trees, large branches, or power lines”

Please do not call SKYWARN if these severe weather events are not occurring in your area. This is _____ (club call sign) standing by for reports.

Net Closing Script

This is K4SRC Net Control for the SKYWARN Severe Weather Net. On behalf of the National Weather Service we would like to thank the amateur community for giving SKYWARN traffic priority, for participating in SKYWARN severe weather nets and the repeater owners for the use of their repeaters.

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Appendix B - Providing Quality SKYWARN Reports

Please remember if there is immediate danger to life or property, call 911

Tornado

Your callsign to Net Control

I have a tornado **<number>** miles to my **<direction>**

I am located at **<cross streets>** in **<City, State>**

- Describe damage (trees, houses, other structures, etc)
- Injuries?
- Strengthening/weakening rotation?

Update net control when it has lifted

Funnel Cloud

Your callsign to Net Control

I have a funnel cloud **<number>** miles to my **<direction>**

I am located at **<cross streets>** in **<City, State>**

- Fast/slow rotation – speeding up/slowng down?
- 50% or more to the ground?
- Can't see if it is behind trees/buildings?

Update net control when it has lifted

Rotating Wall Cloud

Your callsign to Net Control

I have a rotating wall cloud **<number>** miles to my **<direction>**

I am located at **<cross streets>** in **<City, State>**

- Fast/slow rotation – speeding up/slowng down?
- Strong/weak upward rising motion?
- Observed 1+ minutes?

Non-rotating Wall Cloud

Your callsign to Net Control

I have a wall cloud **<number>** miles to my **<direction>**

I am located at **<cross streets>** in **<City, State>**

- Strong/weak upward rising motion?
- Observed 3+ minutes?
- Starting to rotate?

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Damage

Your callsign to Net Control

I have damage at **<cross streets>** in **<City, State>**

- Trees – Uprooted or broken off; diameter of branches for partial breakage or diameter of trunk of tree if completely down
- Homes/Businesses – Roof (shingles off, section off, all off, etc) or walls (section of walls or total destruction)
- Other items of substantial weight that have been broken, flipped, etc.

Wind Gusts in Excess of 50 MPH

Your callsign to Net Control

I have measured wind gusts at **<numbers>** miles per hour at **<cross streets>** in **<City, State>**

Hail

Your callsign to Net Control

I have **<numbers>** sized hail at **<cross streets>** in **<City, State>**

- Advise time if not currently occurring
- Size of the largest hail stone (measured at its widest point)
- Size of smallest hail if it is of a substantial amount

Flooding

DO NOT go into or drive across flooded areas

Your callsign to Net Control

I have flooding at **<cross streets>** in **<City, State>**

- Width of running water
- Depth of running water (if there is an object you can see in the water)
- Objects getting swept away

Heavy Rainfall in Excess of 1" Per Hour

Your callsign to Net Control

I have received **<numbers>** inches of rain at **<cross streets>** in **<City, State>** within **<numbers>** minutes

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Revision Log

16-January 2020	Ver. 1.0	Initial Document for SRC	A. Thames
26-June 2021	Ver 1.1	Corrections to script	A. Thames
11-March 2022	Ver 1.2	Removed extra scripts and updated reporting	A. Thames