

Skywarn Net Operations

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**Gregg County Emergency Communications (GCEC)
Longview East Texas Amateur Radio Club (LETARC)**

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1 - Scope

This document provides details for operations of the Gregg County Skywarn Net.

2 - Terms Of Use

This document is intended for use by individuals participating in emergency communications within the Gregg County Emergency Communications and the Longview East Texas Amateur Radio Club organizations.

3 - Reporting Defects

Defects in this document should be reported to the document coordinator.

4 - Revision History

Date	Ver	Description	Author
10/05/2011	1.00	Initial version - Transferred data from older document and updated	Gary Lewis - WG5L

5 - General Operations

5.1 - Designated Net Positions

The following positions have been designated by GCEC as regular operational positions:

Position	Purpose
Net Manager	Ensures all regular positions required to staff the net are available.
Net Control Station (NCS)	Has overall control of net operations.
Radar Observer	Reports radar observations as required by the net.
Reporting Liaison	Reports relevant spotter reports to NWS and City/County Communications, as required.
Spotters	Reports relevant observations to net control as appropriate.

Depending on the length of operations and/or the availability of trained resources, the positions listed above may be combined or be filled by multiple resources.

5.2 - Participant Training and Position Reporting Capability Required

Participation in the Gregg County Skywarn Net requires specific NWS and SpotterNetwork training and the ability to report your position.

Please refer to the *Emergency Communications Participant Guide* for specifics.

5.3 - Relevant Reporting Criteria

The criteria for reporting is as follows:

- 1" (quarter size) Hail
- Winds 58 mph or greater
- Persistent rotating wall clouds
- Funnel Clouds
- Tornadoes
- Flash Flooding

Reports should be as specific as possible in terms of location, affected area(s), extent of damage, etc. The NCS will remind those spotters that are not adhering to reportable criteria standards to please comply.

6 - Watch Mode

6.1 - Definition

The watch mode is activated when the National Weather Service (NWS) has issued a severe weather watch advisory that affects all or a portion of Gregg County.

6.2 - Readiness Posture

- The Net is not yet activated at this point.
- Net Manager should ensure all resources are available.
- NCS and Radar Observer should start observing Radar and NWS Communications.
- Spotters should have mobile or handheld radios available and monitoring.

6.3 - Activation

The main Emergency Communications repeater (444.725Mhz PL Tone of 136.5 with a positive offset) is placed in watch mode by executing the following procedure:

This is *<your call sign>*.

The National Weather service has issued the following:

<read watch advisory affecting Gregg County (and probably surrounding counties)>

<Give current Radar indications>

I am now placing the repeater in watch mode.

(activate 444.725 to STORM WATCH MODE)

<your call sign>

If for any reason this repeater loses power, we will move to our backup repeater on 443.900Mhz PL Tone of 136.5 with a positive offset.

This is *<your call sign>*.

6.4 - Continuing Announcements

We are currently in watch mode, indicating no warnings are currently in effect for the Gregg County Skywarn coverage area.

- *<READ CURRENT WATCHES IN EFFECT EVERY 30 MIN>*
- *<GIVE RADAR INDICATIONS EVERY 30 MIN>*
- *<READ ANY RELEVANT WARNINGS OR STATEMENTS FROM AREAS TO THE WEST OR SOUTH THAT MAY AFFECT THE COUNTY>*

7 - Warning Mode

7.1 - Definition

The warning mode is activated when the National Weather Service (NWS) has issued a severe weather (usually thunderstorm or tornado) warning advisory that has the potential to affect all or a portion of Gregg County.

7.2 - Readiness Posture

- The Net is not yet activated at this point.
- NCS and Radar Observer should be actively observing Radar and NWS Communications.
- Spotters should have mobile or handheld radios available and monitoring, ready to check-in when Net check-ins are requested.

7.3 - Activation

The main Emergency Communications repeater (444.725Mhz PL Tone of 136.5 with a positive offset) is placed in warning mode by executing the following procedure:

This is *<your call sign>*.

The National Weather service has issued the following:

<read warning advisory affecting Gregg County (and probably surrounding counties)>

<Give current Radar indications>

We are now in warning mode and the National Weather Service can request that we activate the Skywarn Net at any time. All stations outside the warning area should hold their traffic at this time.

If for any reason this repeater loses power, we will move to our backup repeater on 443.900Mhz PL Tone of 136.5 with a positive offset.

This is *<your call sign>*.

7.4 - Continuing Announcements

We are currently in net mode, indicating no warnings are currently in effect for the Gregg County Skywarn coverage area.

<READ CURRENT WARNINGS IN EFFECT EVERY 10 MIN.>

<GIVE RADAR INDICATIONS FOR EFFECTED COUNTY(S) AS NEEDED>

8 - Net Mode

8.1 - Definition

The Net mode is activated when the National Weather Service (NWS) requests that we activate the Skywarn Net for our area. It is usually an extension of the warning mode.

8.2 - Readiness Posture

- The Net is activated at this point.
- NCS and Radar Observer should be actively observing Radar and NWS Communications.
- Spotters should check-in when Net check-ins are requested.

8.3 - Activation

The main Emergency Communications repeater (444.725Mhz PL Tone of 136.5 with a positive offset) is placed in warning mode by executing the following procedure:

This is *<your call sign>*.

The National Weather service has issued the following:

<read warning advisory affecting Gregg County (and probably surrounding counties)>

<Give current Radar indications>

I am now placing the repeater in net mode.

(activate 444.725 to NET MODE)

<your call sign>

This is the Gregg County Skywarn Net. This is *<your call sign>* and I will be Net Control for this net. This is a directed net, which means all communications, with the exception of the Radar Observer, must first be recognized by Net Control. In order to be recognized by Net Control, please give your call sign only.

This net is open to Skywarn trained amateur radio operators who have registered with Gregg County Skywarn. All trained spotters should adhere to official National Weather Service reporting criteria standards. All other operators are welcome to monitor net operations.

This Net will forward severe weather reports to the National Weather Service from participants in the coverage area meeting the following criteria:

- 1" (quarter size) Hail
- Winds 58 mph or greater
- Persistent rotating wall clouds
- Funnel Clouds
- TORNADOS
- Flash Flooding

Please keep the frequency clear and only report when you have events meeting reportable criteria. If for any reason this repeater loses power, we will move to our backup repeater on 443.900Mhz PL Tone of 136.5 with a positive offset.

We will now accept check-ins to the Gregg County Skywarn Net. Those wishing to check in, please come now.

8.4 - Continuing Announcements

This is the Gregg County Skywarn Net. We are currently under the following advisory(ies):

<READ CURRENT WARNINGS IN EFFECT EVERY 10 MIN.>

<GIVE RADAR INDICATIONS FOR EFFECTED COUNTY(S) AS NEEDED>

9 - Deactivation

The main Emergency Communications repeater (444.725Mhz PL Tone of 136.5 with a positive offset) is returned to normal operations by executing the following procedure:

This is *<your call sign>*.

The National Weather service has cancelled the following:

<read warning advisory affecting Gregg County (and probably surrounding counties)>

<Give current Radar indications>

Do we have any further reports?

I would like to thank all who participated in the Net.

I am now returning the repeater back to normal operations.

(activate 444.725 to NORMAL OPERATING MODE)

<your call sign>