

NORTHWEST GEORGIA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB SEVERE WEATHER NET EXPLANATION

BEFORE WE START....A FEW QUESTIONS:

1. What purpose does a Severe Weather Net provide?
2. What equipment does one need to participate in Severe Weather Net?
3. Who may activate the Northwest Georgia Emergency Net?
4. What functions do stations have in a Severe Weather Net and what are their roles?
5. When is a Severe Weather Net called into session?
6. What is the procedure for operating a Severe Weather Net?

PURPOSE OF SEVERE WEATHER NET:

The purpose of the Severe Weather net is to collect weather related information from places affected by severe weather, and relay that information to the National Weather Service, Emergency Personnel and/or the local Emergency Management Agency.

WHAT IS "SEVERE WEATHER?"

Severe Weather is any weather condition which presents a threat to life or property. This includes hurricanes, tornadoes, thunderstorms, snow and ice storms, and floods.

WHAT EQUIPMENT IS NEEDED?

Most Severe Weather Nets are conducted on 2-meter repeaters. Therefore, amateurs need to have two-meter radios (some areas are using other frequencies such as 220 MHz and 440 MHz). State-side Severe Weather Nets usually meet on linked repeater nets controlled by NWS Peachtree City. In our area the 146.805 (+) 100.0 Hz Jasper repeater and the 146.895 (+) 77.0 Hz Yorkville repeater are normally linked in. On HF, 75 meters, 3975 KHz USB is the ARES statewide frequency, so having an HF radio and the appropriate license to operate an HF radio can also be useful. What is very important is having emergency power capability, since commercial power is likely to fail during severe weather.

WHO CAN ACTIVATE A NORTHWEST GEORGIA SEVERE WEATHER NET?

A Severe Weather Net may be activated by any Amateur within the WARNING area at any time. Should the net be opened by another Amateur, that amateur shall relinquish net control

to the Appointed ARES EC for Floyd or Polk Counties, or his designee, immediately upon request.

WHAT FUNCTIONS ARE THERE IN A SEVERE WEATHER NET?

A DIRECTED NET – All traffic must be directed to Net Control.

NET CONTROL - This station is in complete control of the net. His/Her job is to bring the net into session, or maintain the net after another station starts it. The Net Control appoints Alternate Net Controls, Net Liaisons, and takes check-ins from spotter stations, maintaining a log of call-signs, location and time. All traffic and inquiries **MUST** go through Net Control. When the emergency has passed and the net is no longer needed, the Net control will secure the net.

ALTERNATE NET CONTROL - There should be at least one station appointed to this function. The Alternate Net Control should also keep a list of current check-ins, locations and time. If the Net Control should have to leave the air, the Alternate Net Control should assume control of the net until the Net Control can return to the air.

NET LIAISON - The station appointed to this function is responsible for collecting any important weather information and passing it on as traffic to the designated National Weather Service weather net, or to NWS Peachtree City by any available means. This station should be well acquainted with traffic handling procedures.

SPOTTER STATIONS -These stations are the ones who pass along severe weather information on the Net. After they check in and give their location, they should remain off the air unless they have severe weather information to pass on the Net. Spotter Stations should be prepared to report on the weather condition at their location if the Net Control requests such information. These stations must request permission from Net Control before they secure. **We DO NOT encourage Storm Chasing.** This is a very dangerous practice and should be left to trained professionals.

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