

## **SKYWARN® WEATHER SPOTTERS**

Unless otherwise requested spotter call-in criteria are that which is outlined on the National Weather Service El Paso Spotter Call-in Criteria page in this Plan. The Emergency Coordinator or designated representative will establish liaison communication with the SKYWARN® Coordinator on the SKYWARN® Repeater frequency 145.410MHz, (-offset, 88.5 PL), or the 444.200MHz, (+offset, 100.0 PL) repeater whichever is being used for SKYWARN® at that time. Trained weather spotters will use their spotter numbers assigned by the WFO EPZ with each report. The ARES® will provide weather spotter information to the EOC when requested by the Office of Emergency Management.

### **Activations**

The WFO EPZ SKYWARN® Activation Plan will be followed as directed by the WFO EPZ and the SKYWARN® Coordinator. WFO EPZ is responsible for Luna, Grant, Sierra, Dona Ana and Otero counties in southern New Mexico and El Paso and Hudspeth counties in Texas. Once the active weather situation has subsided the Emergency Coordinator will implement the Know Your Area program for the affected neighborhoods. Reports of damage will be collected. The net control station on the Amigo Link will read the WX5ELP WEATHER SPOTTER ACTIVATION NET preamble. Normally, enough advanced warning is given by WFO EPZ to the SKYWARN® Coordinator so that the SKYWARN® Coordinator can send out a group email to the SKYWARN® group and other SKYWARN® Coordinators advising them of pending activation. The SKYWARN® Coordinator will make QST announcements on the Amigo Link Frequencies and the 145.410 repeater in El Paso County.

### **Reports**

SKYWARN® spotters will refer to their NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE EL PASO Spotter Call-in Criteria sheet or Basic Spotters Guide for reportable reports. Pictures of the cloud formations or hail size, etc. can be submitted to the WFO EPZ Twitter account (@NWSElPaso), or posted on the WFO EPZ facebook page (facebook.com/NWSElPaso). When sending hail size reports be sure to associate the correct coin with the hail size. The ARES® Emergency Coordinator will submit a Public Service Activity Report (fsd157) with his/her Emergency Coordinator Monthly Report.

For those with D-Star capabilities and D-RATS loaded use the SKYWARN® Spotter Report Form to report information. Attach a photograph of any damage to the form. Photographs may be sent to the WFO EPZ using the ID-31A, ID-51A(Anniversary), ID-5100A or IC-7100 radio using the RS-MS1A App from an Android device. All older D-Star radios should use the DSTAR TV program to send photographs to WFO EPZ direct.

### **Training**

Training nets will be held on the first and third Fridays of the month at 09:30 AM. Two net control operators will report to the WFO EPZ and activate the net using the radios from Santa Teresa, NM. The operator using the IC-880H radio will be net control for the

Amigo Link and read the WX5ELP SKYWARN® Training Net Preamble, and will fill out the Radio Check-in List form. This radio is connected to a discone antenna at mid-point on the tower so will have limited coverage. After the analog check-ins have completed the operator will switch to the W5ELP and W5GB D-Star repeaters for additional radio checks.

The operator operating the FT-857 radio will be the net control for local county check-ins on local repeaters. The Radio Check List form will be used at this station. The net control will contact WX spotters in each county. Any repeater found unserviceable will be reported to the respective county SKYWARN® Coordinator.

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