

WEATHER SPOTTERS NET

Unless otherwise requested spotter call-in criteria is 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 Amigo Link frequency.

Activations

The WFO EPZ SKYWARN® Activation Plan will be followed as directed by the WFO EPZ and the SKYWARN® Coordinator. When a watch is issued and/or active scenario is anticipated weather spotters are asked to start monitoring the Amigo Link frequencies. Go about daily routine but be aware. Active radio checks, all circuits / nets should be initiated. Review individual preparations – supplies, ops plan, as they apply to the areas of potential problems identified by the NWS Santa Teresa Office. Weather spotters should start charging batteries. The SKYWARN® Coordinator and designated individual/s should anticipate probable deployment to WFO EPZ. When the WFO EPZ issues a Warning the WFO EPZ may give a heads-up of likely SKYWARN activation triggered by onset of event.

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 in El Paso County. 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

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 (@NWSEIPaso). When sending hail size reports be sure to associate the correct coin with the hail size. Trained weather spotters will use their spotter numbers assigned by the WFO EPZ with each 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-51A PLUS2, ID-4100, ID-5100A or IC-7100 radio using the RS-MS1A App from an Android device.

Training

Training nets will be held on the first and third Wednesday of the month at 6:45 PM. 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. After the analog check-ins have completed the operator will switch to the KG5ZPX, 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 checks-ins on their local repeaters. The Radio Check List form will be used at this station. The net control will contact WX spotters in each county.

Miscellaneous

The ARES® will provide weather spotter information to the EOC when requested by the Office of Emergency Management.

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.

Any repeater found unserviceable during a net will be reported to the respective county SKYWARN® Coordinator.

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