Barrow County Skywarn

Spotter Call-Up and Spotting Guide

Call-Up

- General Information
  - SKYWARN members should monitor the primary net frequency if they suspect that a severe weather condition may exist such as the presence of a bad storm.
  - Mobilization is initiated by the opening of a SKYWARN Net on the primary net frequency by a Net Control Station (NCS).
  - SKYWARN members will be checked into the net from their home or mobile stations to await further instructions.
  - Appropriate assignments will be made as deemed necessary by the SKYWARN Officer or NCS.

- Members of Barrow County Skywarn will be notified of potential and actual activation using one or more of the following methods:
  - E-mail Alerts generated automatically from the EMWIN Software System and/or manually from the Barrow County Skywarn Coordinator
  - By monitoring the NWS Spotter Activation Notice on the Skywarn website at www.BarrowCountySkywarn.net
  - By monitoring the BARES primary net frequency at 146.550
    - If a net is currently in activation the NCS will be identifying the Net every few minutes to catch those who may have turned on their radios late and may be unaware.
  - Text messaging
  - Phone tree call-up network
  - Tagline appended to the bottom of NWS watches and warnings
  - Possible spot announcement on the local broadcast station

- Local Emergency Service and Law Enforcement Agencies should be made aware of the fact that BARROW COUNTY SKYWARN spotters are being dispatched about the county area and to expect their presence, so that there is no confusion and to minimize possible confrontations with law enforcement who might not otherwise know.

- In case of a confrontation, spotters should never argue with any law enforcement or like authority. Regardless of the fact that you may have been assigned to a specified position, you will leave immediately and without argument or discussion and advice the NCS that you have been requested to vacate the area by the authorities.
- Be professional.
- Unprofessional behavior may adversely affect how other agencies view our credibility, as well as our ability to be seen by them as a responsible organization.

Spotter Guidelines

- First and foremost, stay safe!
- Skywarn Spotters are NOT Storm Chasers.
- Do NOT put yourself in a dangerous situation.
- Skywarn Spotters are observers.
- NWS reportable criteria:
  - Hail Quarter Size and larger
  - High Winds resulting in downed branches 4 inches or better
  - High winds resulting in trees down
  - High Winds causing trees to lean 30 degrees or better
  - Flooding resulting in road closures or evacuations
  - Funnel Clouds
  - Tornados on the ground (debris observed)(estimated location)
- Trained Skywarn Spotters who are amateur radio operators should report any of the above, to the Skywarn Net Control on 146.55 MHz.
- You may also use any of the following to report to the NWS:
  - Internet
    - http://www.srh.noaa.gov/ffc/html/strmsubm1.shtml
  - Phone
    - 1-888-763-4466
  - **Please forward any reports made directly to the NWS either by Internet on phone to wx4bcw@hotmail.com for record purposes**.