

Amateur Radio's Support of The National Weather Service

Presented by:

***Dennis Dura, K2DCD
Manager, Emergency Preparedness & Response
ARRL, The National Association for Amateur Radio***

What we do for the NWS...

...also supports our local, county, state and Federal government organizations that are involved

**...through the information we collect
...in the rapid manner that we do it**

...to save lives

Programs & Operations that support NWS through Amateur Radio

- **Skywarn[®]**
- **Hurricane Watch Net**
- **VoIP Hurricane Net**
- **Maritime Nets**
- **Incident specific**

Skywarn

- **The all-weather, all season program**
 - While the program concentrates on Severe Thunderstorms and Tornadoes, **all** weather hazards must remain in focus.
 - The need for information for all weather events is critical, independent of how spectacular they are.
 - Resources and mission capabilities of those that comprise the program can be used in other monitoring-reporting situations.

Skywarn Supports

- During Events
 - Verification of warnings and live events
 - Constant communications
 - Inherent interoperability between organizations
- After Events
 - Damage Assessment and event investigations
 - Research data

Skywarn Challenges

- Net Procedures
- Lack of practice
- Improper usage
 - Skywarn Nets are not in place to be a method of rebroadcasting the weather warnings
 - The vital aspect of the Net is to gather the data that will support or alter the warnings
- Turf wars

Skywarn...

- Is a NWS program Amateur Radio supports
- Is not an ARRL ARES® program
- Is not a program of any other emcomm organization (although they may support it)
- Is a program where amateur radio operators can develop skills useful in other disaster/emergency situations]
- ...is a NWS program!

LSR

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NWUS51 KBOX 122307

LSRBOX

PRELIMINARY LOCAL STORM REPORT...CORRECTED

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE TAUNTON MA

607 PM EST FRI DEC 12 2008

..TIME... ..EVENT... ..CITY LOCATION... ..LAT.LON...

..DATE... ..MAG.... ..COUNTY LOCATION..ST.. ..SOURCE....

..REMARKS..

0709 PM ICE STORM FITCHBURG 42.59N 71.82W

12/11/2008 WORCESTER MA AMATEUR RADIO

TREE DOWN ON LINCOLN STREET

0751 PM ICE STORM FITCHBURG 42.59N 71.82W

12/11/2008 WORCESTER MA AMATEUR RADIO

- This one LSR contained
 - 219 unique reports from Amateur Radio equipped Spotter
 - 1 Co-Op Observer
 - 2 Spotters
 - 2 NWS Employee
- Program made up of 35% Hams 65% Non-Hams

Hurricane Watch Net

Formed in 1965 during Hurricane Betsy, as an informal group of radio amateurs who recognized a need to provide communications to and from hurricane affected areas. The Hurricane Watch Net has continued to operate during every hurricane threatening land in the Atlantic, Caribbean Basin, and Gulf of Mexico, and has acquired a formal, direct association, with the National Hurricane Center in Miami, FL since that time. The Hurricane Watch Net activates on 14.325.00 MHz whenever a hurricane is within 300 miles of projected landfall or becomes a serious threat to a populated area.

www.hwn.org

Mobile Maritime Service Network

The network acts as a weather beacon for ships during periods of severe weather and regularly repeats high seas and tropical weather warnings and bulletins from the National Weather Service and the National Hurricane Center. The network is also part of the MAROB (**MAR**ine **OB**servation) program of the National Weather Service. We gather "live" weather and sea conditions from maritime mobile stations and forward that information directly to the weather service via the internet. The live data assists the meteorologists with upcoming maritime weather forecasts.

www.mmsn.org

VoIP Hurricane Net

SKYWARN's purpose, and our primary objective, is to help save lives and property through The identification and cautious field evaluation of threatening or dangerous weather And hazardous conditions and facilitating the timely gathering and dissemination of this information.

www.voipwx.net

VoIP Hurricane Net

Utilization of modes:

Primary-EchoLink WX-TALK Conference and IRLP Reflector 9219

Secondary-EchoLink Conference *VKEMCOMM*, EchoLink Node #:270177 and IRLP Reflector 9508 system

Tertiary-New England Network which is the *NEW-ENG* Conference Server, Node #:9123 and IRLP Reflector 9123.

Incident Specific

- Damage Assessment
- Incident Meteorologists
 - At disaster operations that require on-scene meteorologists that have a need for communications support normal systems can support
- Would support future “Emergency Response Meteorologists”

Unique Hazard Support

- Tsunami Warning Networks
- Volcano monitoring
- Earthquake

Intelligence Gathering

(It's Not Just Direct Weather Observation)

- Other amateur radio nets
- Commercial broadcasters
- Public Safety networks
- Internet social sites, blogs, etc

Remember at all times...

It is a role of amateur radio to support the National Weather Service and other governmental organizations that use our volunteer emergency communications resources...

...to protect the public safety

...protect property

...and most importantly, save lives

Independent of the organization name...

...on your hat or your shirt!

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860.594.0200

k2dcd@arrl.org