

General procedures for participation in the Madison County StormNet Program

All licensed Amateur Radio Operators in Madison County are invited to actively participate in the program. More participants result in improved accuracy of local warnings.

Successful completion of one or more yearly training classes is required for assignment to an observation point. Regular training will improve the skills of the observer.

When in **STANDBY** Status monitor the network more closely to understand the potential for activation and the potential timing/severity of the situation.

- Make certain your batteries are charged and equipment properly programmed.
- Attach an improved temporary antenna to your vehicle if you typically utilize a handheld.

When in **READY** Status check into the formal net and LISTEN for updates of the situation.

- Check in with the Net Control station even if you cannot leave home (A-3).
- Provide for the safety of your family.
- Prepare for assignment to an observation point if possible (A-1).
- Check your "ready bag" for necessary equipment, maps, paperwork, etc.
- Prepare your communications equipment for possible loss of primary power.
- Review your "field of view" and ability to provide visual reports from home.
- If possible volunteer to monitor SKYWARN Nets in adjacent Counties.
- Monitor for real-time updates from the Warning Division to the Network.

When in **ACTIVE** Status observers are dispatched to the designated Observation Points and radio traffic is limited to transmissions directly related to the situation in Madison County.

- If assigned to an Observation Point proceed at the best SAFE speed.
- Monitor closely for situational updates.
- Notify the Net Control when you have reached the assigned location.
- Provide observations when in-route only if requested by Net Control.
- Make sure your radio is in "high power" and your signal strength is maximized.
- Expect regular requests for weather/observation updates, especially if in the high activity area.
- Report WHAT IS, not what isn't happening.
- Utilize TACTICAL designation.

If participating from home:

- Monitor closely the net reports for your own safety.
- When reporting provide your General location (500S & 109; 53rd & Main; 1 mi. west of Frankton).
- Provide reports to the Net Control ONLY if you are in a high activity zone or if the Net is tracking a Squall line/front passing your area.
- Observe from your location and report large Hail, Funnel Clouds and Tornadoes.
- Do NOT report what ISN'T happening.

Recognize that the Net Control Station and the Warning Division members may be operating on three or more radios/frequencies and dealing with inputs that may not be heard on this Operational Network. Be patient and understanding of the task at hand. Warning Division members are also interfacing with the NWS and preparing/delivering warnings to our citizens.

Amateurs passing thru the area will want to provide observations and updates that may or may not be helpful to the "flow" of the local network. If the net control station is "short" with those reporters recognize that it's not that we don't want the added input, but it might not be pertinent to the immediate data need. Their lack of familiarity with the County can also result in non-essential reporting.