

JBWA SKYWARN Keywords

In emergency communication nets the net control station must prioritize traffic. For the Skywarn Net, warnings of dangerous weather, severe weather observations, and reports of dangerous situations due to significant damage are of the highest priority. Most amateur radio nets have key words used to call net control. We will implement this system for Skywarn and encourage stations to call net control with key words, using an educational approach. When a station calls without using keywords, net control tells them what key word applies to their call, and then handles the call in the appropriate priority. As more people use key words, the net will work better, and others who listen in will use key words also. Net control should not hesitate to ask stations to stand by until other matters of higher priority are addressed. (For instance: “X4XXX, stand by for check-in, we are now asking for weather observations in the affected area only.”)

Key words for Skywarn, in order of priority.

EMERGENCY	Any emergency situation needing police, fire, or medical services
WARNING	To warn of dangerous weather – t-storm, rotation, wall cloud, funnel cloud, or tornado (first person actual observations only!)
SEVERE	To report severe weather, add “measured” or “estimated”
DAMAGE	To report weather damage: structures, trees down, road flooded
TRAFFIC	To pass agency traffic in situations where the station is assigned to assist an agency or group (e.g. operators of a shelter)
ALERT	To relay and read new NWS warnings
CONTACT	To request making contact with another station on frequency
OBSERVATION	To report a general and significant but non-severe weather observation
INFO	To provide information needed by net control or other stations
SECURING	To report securing station
RE-CHECK	To return (after net control told you to re-check when you return)
CORRECTION **	To correct faulty information passed on the net – ** this has the same priority as the original call that is being corrected
RADAR	To provide radar updates on cell movements or intensity
THIRD PARTY	To provide info from third parties, public agency radio traffic or public media (e.g. road closures, major accidents)
DISCUSSION	To make announcements or contribute to any discussion on the net– and for any other purpose not covered above
CHECK-IN	Not used - stand by to check in until net control calls for check-ins.

When you check in to the Activation Net, stay with the net until net control knows that you are Securing. Email me with any suggestions concerning key words or Skywarn net procedures.