

DuPage County Weather Net

SKYWARN Severe Weather Net Script

This script is to be used when severe weather is approaching or has reached DuPage County. The script is divided into three parts. **Part One** is for use when the National Weather Service has issued a **WATCH** for severe weather and a Stand-By Net is needed. **Part Two** is for use when check-in's need to take place (Stand-By or Active nets). **Part Three** is for use when there is an active **WARNING** for severe weather approaching or inside DuPage County.

The general rule is that a net will be initiated anytime a NWS Watch or Warning is issued. Nets operated during **WATCHES** will be standby nets, with periodic announcements from Net Control regarding the current situation. When a **WARNING** is issued, the net will go active, take check-in's from spotters and receive severe weather reports.

The **DuPage County ARES EC (Dave Harr, K9FIO)** should be notified immediately for any type of Skywarn net activated either via slack, email or phone. If possible, a member of the leadership team should be available to help with any Skywarn activations.

Operation Notes:

- If the net is in **WATCH** status and it appears that severe weather will reach the county in the immediate future, Net Control should consider beginning a spotter check-in process to determine which stations might already be available and moving into position to spot.
- Net Control stations should have **NWS Radar, NWChat** and **DuPage County ARES Slack** access available at their station or work in close cooperation with someone who does those tools. An Alternate Net Control should be recruited / identified while the net is in Stand-By mode if possible.
- Net Control stations should remember to conduct regular safety/status checks, especially with mobile spotters. Where possible, check on mobile spotters every **15-20** minutes.
- During active weather situations remember to properly identify yourself (**this is <name>, Net Control <your call sign> for DuPage County ARES**), the repeater being used and that a controlled, directed Skywarn Net is currently active. Encourage all traffic to be kept short so the repeater is available for emergency traffic.
- Remind all stations that we will take severe weather reports **only** from currently NWS trained spotters (class every 2 years). Severe weather reports accepted will be regarding:
 - hail 1" or greater
 - winds measured over 58 mph
 - flooded areas
 - funnel or wall clouds, or tornadoes
 - significant damage – i.e. trees (size, type), buildings, etc.
- WE ARE NOT INTERESTED IN CASUAL WEATHER OBSERVATIONS NOT RELATED TO EITHER SEVERE WEATHER OR A LIGHTNING THREAT.
- Remember to TAKE BREAKS when possible. The ANCS can help with warnings, safety checks, etc. to help share the load.

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Part One – Stand-By Net

NC: This is <name> <call> acting as Net Control for **DuPage County Weather Net**. The National Weather Service has issued a <type of watch> for **DuPage County** effective until <watch end time>. We are activating a SKYWARN Stand-By Net at this time.

➤ **BREAK for more.** <Pause>

NC: All active stations should monitor this frequency. If you wish to use the repeater for normal amateur traffic, please keep your transmissions **short** and leave space for stations with priority traffic. Net Control will be providing periodic updates on the weather situation as needed. If the situation becomes more severe, we will move to a fully directed SKYWARN Net and begin taking check-ins.

➤ **BREAK for more.** <Pause>

NC: Is there any station that can serve as Alternate Net Control Station? If so, call now and indicate if you have access to radar and or the **DuPage County ARES slack chatroom**.

<Pause>

< Wait for response, acknowledge, and verify that the ANCS knows what they are being asked to do. Refer to ANCS Instructions, separate. Note in log. >

NC: This is <call sign> Net Control. This is a Stand-By net at this time due to <type of watch> in affect for DuPage County until <watch end time>. Here is a summary of the watch issued.

*<At this point, summarize the NWS watch information (watch text, any NWS mesoscale discussions associated with the watch, SPC Convective Outlook discussions, Area Forecast Discussions or Hazardous Weather Outlooks from NWS Chicago / LOT, etc. Ask if anyone has any questions and answer as able. Do **not** speculate. >*

NC: This is <name> <call> acting as Net Control for **DuPage County ARES**. This net is now in stand-by mode. Continue to monitor for updates.

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From now on, repeat the first 2 paragraphs occasionally, every 15 - 30 minutes. Advise of any changes to the WATCH, or any other significant news related to the situation. Conclude with the last paragraph in the section above.

*If the weather situation is escalating, you should start taking check-in's and determine spotter availability. **You do not have to move to a directed net to take check in's.***

Remember to coordinate with your Alternate NCS. There should be a Net Control Station on frequency at all times, if possible.

While in Stand-by, this is a perfect time to request other DuPage County ARES members to help monitor radar, further NWS announcements, and what weather is developing in counties next to DuPage depending on what direction the weather is moving in from. If the severe weather is forecast to last for more than a couple hours, ask for other DuPage County ARES members who might be able to step in a relief NCS / ANCS and if they have limits on their availability.

All activity should be logged and a copy of the logs sent in some form (scanned, picture, or typed) to the EC (Dave K9FIO) within 24-48 hours.

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Part Two – Spotter Check-in's

NC: This is *<name>* *< your call sign>* acting as Net Control for **DuPage County Severe Weather Net.** We will now begin check in's from trained weather spotters only. All spotters, please give your call sign only, phonetically, and wait for acknowledgment from Net Control. After Net Control Acknowledges, respond with your name, your current location, if you are a mobile or stationary spotter. Do not leave the net without checking out for safety purposes.

We will only take weather information from trained spotters. Others are welcome to monitor, but do not break in unless you have an emergency situation.

< Pause >

< Note each DuPage ARES spotter who is mobile, where they are located currently and what time they checked in (so you can do a wellness check later). Note any special circumstances such as APRS, HT, no radar, etc. >

NC: This is *<your call sign>* Net Control. Again, for everybody's safety, do not leave this net without checking out with Net Control, we will follow NWS criteria for reporting severe weather:

- **HAIL 1 inch or larger**
- **Winds 58 mph or higher**
- **Any funnel or wall clouds**
- **Tornadoes**
- **Flowing Flood Waters**
- **Significant Damage, including trees but say type of tree and limb or tree size.**

which includes reports regarding hail 1 inch or larger, winds 58 mph or above preferably measured, any types of funnel or wall clouds, tornadoes, flowing flood waters, and any kind of significant damage including trees which should include tree or limb size and type of tree.

Mobile spotters should stay remain vigilant about their surroundings and always have an escape plan in case of threatening weather.

< At this point, if in a Stand-by net, you may repeat this information as you deem necessary and take further check-in's as appropriate. If there are warnings coming close to DuPage Co such that DuPage Co will be included within about 10-15 minutes, feel free to move to an Active Net. >

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Part Three – Active Skywarn Net

NC: Attention all stations. This is *<name> <call>* acting as Net Control for **DuPage County Weather Net**. The National Weather Service has issued a *<type of warning>* for **DuPage County** effective until *< warning end time>*. We are activating an Active SKYWARN directed net at this time. Stations are requested to address all communications to Net Control.

To break-in to report a tornado, call Net Control and use the pro-word “TORNADO” followed by your call sign.

EXAMPLE: “NET CONTROL TORNADO THIS IS KF9IO”

To report all other severe weather, call Net Control, and use the pro-word “WEATHER” followed by your call sign. Net Control will recognize with a report of a TORNADO overriding all other traffic. All other stations hearing a report of a Tornado or Severe Weather this should cease transmissions until the report has been passed.

Stations with other priority or emergency traffic may break in at any time by using the words ‘PRIORITY’, ‘URGENT’, or ‘EMERGENCY’. When recognized, please identify yourself and state the nature of your urgent or emergency traffic.

Are there any stations with tornado, severe weather reports, emergency, priority traffic at this time.

<Pause>

< Listen for any stations with emergency traffic. If yes, verify that the traffic is coming from a NWS trained spotter and log the report for relay to NWS Chicago.

Reports will preferably be relayed via one of the NWS Chicago Liaison repeaters (Wheaton is the closest) and net control may have to ask another DuPage Co ARES member to perform the relay. If no relay is available, the report can be sent via NWSChat message. If NWSChat is not available, have the spotter call NWS Chicago directly via the spotter phone number. >

NC: The National Weather Service has issued a *<type of warning>* for **DuPage County** effective until *< warning end time>*. A summary of the warning is as follows:

< Quickly read or summarize the warning statement. Give the expected locations & arrival times if listed. You do not have to read the entire warning text if it will tie up the repeater too long. >

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NC: This is <your call sign>, Net Control for **DuPage County Severe Weather Net**. An Active SKYWARN Net is now in session all traffic should be directed to net control. Please continue to monitor this frequency and keep radio silence unless you have urgent traffic. If so, please pause long enough between transmissions so break-in's can also be recognized. Please remember to notify Net Control if you need to leave the net.

Continue with ongoing NCS operations. Give periodic updates, conduct status/safety checks, track spotters moving to new locations, do 10 minute station IDs, etc. Consider assigning tactical calls for convenience. Relay updated NWS information.

Watch your time and prepare for individuals who might be leaving the net (Alternate NCS, the radar / safety assistant, etc.).

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If the county is cleared of all WARNINGS ends but a WATCH continues, consider going back to stand-by mode and releasing your spotters.

Coordinate and verify log information with the Alt. NCS as needed.

Take breaks!

SAFETY CHECK ROLL CALL Script:

NC: Attention all stations, this is **<your call sign>**. We will now conduct a safety check of all spotters logged in to this net. When you are called, please acknowledge and give your current location.

< Run thru the log of active mobile spotters. Skip any ones that do not respond and return to call them again after the first pass is completed. Flag those that don't respond to the 2nd call and give occasional calls to them when practical. If they have "disappeared" for more than 20 minutes, ask the ANCS to see if they can reach them via phone or direct slack chat. >

NC: This concludes the safety roll call. Please remember to contact net control before you leave the net. This is **<your call sign>** on the **Wheaton Community Radio Amateur** repeater for **DuPage County ARES**. We still have an active SKYWARN net in progress and all stations are requested to direct all traffic to net control.

<If no other warnings will be issued after the storms have passed, you may release all spotters and close the net.>

<If storm warnings are cancelled and storm watches continue you may place the net in stand-by mode and release any spotters from the net>

Placing the Net back in Stand By Status

NC: This is **<your call sign>**, Net Control for the **DuPage County Weather Net**. The National Weather Service has canceled a **<type of warning>** for **DuPage County**. However **<type of watch>** remains in effect **<until end time>** for **DuPage County**. At this time we will place the net in a Standby status. No further check-ins at this time, normal repeater operation may continue. Please keep your transmissions **short** and leave space for stations with priority traffic. We want to thank the Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs for the use of their repeater during this net.

<pause>

At this time if any station would like to leave the net, please check out now one at a time and wait for Net Control to acknowledge you.

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< Wait and acknowledge each station, be sure to thank each station for their time and assistance >

Closing the Net

NC: This is <name> <your call sign> net control for the **DuPage County Weather Net**. At this time we are closing the net. Use #1 or #2

<If all stations previously checked out>

#1 and would like to thank all amateurs who have participated today.

<if stations need to check out>

#2 At this time we will conduct station check outs. When your station is called please respond with your call sign.

< be sure to thank them for their time and assistance >

NC: We would like to also thank the **Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs** for the use of the repeater for this net. This net is now closed at _____ (time) local time. This is <your call sign> clear. 73's

All activity should be logged and a copy of the logs sent in some form (scanned, picture, or typed) to the EC (Dave KF9IO kf9io@arrl.net) within 24-48 hours.
