

TITLE: Stormnet Severe Weather Observation Procedures

PROCEDURE: Communications-05

REVISION NO.: 4

DATE LAST REVISED: March, 2010

Stormnet (formerly SKYWARN) is an Amateur Radio and Emergency Management program in Madison County utilizing our communications capabilities to organize and report during conditions of Severe Weather or Tornado activity. The following general procedures will be followed:

1. All Stormnet personnel will be properly trained in recognition of Tornadoes and dangerous storms.
2. The Communications practices "MCEMA Amateur Radio - Standard Operating Practices" will be followed.
3. When violent weather may form, the Warning Officer or his designate will monitor the available sources and evaluate weather information. This condition is **STANDBY** status for Stormnet and no formal network will be activated. Standby status will be announced on EM Dispatch channel and 146.820 MHz. The repeater on 146.820 will transmit an appropriate alert tone and message.
4. At the recommendation of the Warning Officer or other Staff member the Stormnet may be brought to **READY** status. This may occur if the National Weather Service issues a Tornado Watch or Severe Thunderstorm Watch for Madison County or an area that includes Madison County or if threatening conditions are indicated. Ready status requires a formal net in which all members should check in indicating status and prepare for assignment to a Stormnet Observation Point. Routine traffic is permitted but must be kept short. Between 07:00 and 23:00 the tone-alert may be used to indicate Ready status.
5. At the recommendation of the Warning Officer or his designate the Net Control Station will bring Stormnet to **ACTIVE**. This may occur if a tornado warning or violent thunderstorm warning is issued by the NWS for Madison County an adjacent County or if threatening conditions indicate. All routine traffic will be suspended and units will be assigned to observation stations and other points. The tone-alert will be used at any hour to indicate Active status.
6. All units assigned to observation points will use only the descriptive designator (Tactical call sign) assigned to that point. Call letter identification should occur only once per 10 minutes of operation, preferably at the end of a series of reports and not during critical times.
7. When in Active status only stations that have received the proper training will be actively participating in Stormnet. Dispatched observers are expected to have received training regularly and within the last three years. All other stations will be requested to call in on an alternate frequency to report additional weather situations.

8. A fixed station will be designated to monitor other sources of weather information requested by the Warning Officer or his designate, and report the information that affects Madison County to the NWS. This is usually 146.970 MHz. or 442.650 MHz.

Stormnet Network Status:

- STANDBY** Conditions favorable for the formation of severe weather.
Participants monitor closely.
- READY** Severe thunderstorm/tornado watch issued for County.
Formal communications network established.
Participants check in & prepare for dispatching.
- ACTIVE** Formal communications network established.
Observers dispatched to observation points.

Participant Readiness Status:

- A-1** - Immediately available
- A-2** - Available in a short time (10 min.)
- A-3** - Available from home only
- A-4** - Enroute to or stationed at the Emergency Operations Center, or attending to duties at an alternate fixed location

Frequencies Utilized:

- Madison County Stormnet: 146.820 MHz. (Alternate 147.090 MHz. PL 110.9)
- Link to the National Weather Service: 146.970 MHz. 77.0 PL or 442.650 MHz. 77.0 PL
- Link to other Counties: Their "SKYWARN" repeater net frequency

The **Observation Points** utilized during **Stormnet** are as follows:

	<u>DESIGNATION(S)</u>		<u>GENERAL LOCATION</u>	
A	Alpha	1000S & 50W	1000S & 50W	(Church Lot)
B	Bravo	Ingalls	575W & SR 67	(.6 Mi. South)
C	Charlie	I69 & SR 13	I 69 & SR 13	(.5 Mi. North)
D	Delta	Lapel	300S & 950W	(.4 Mi. South)
E	Echo	Perkinsville	8th. St. & SR 13	(.2 Mi. West)
F	Foxtrot	W Frankton	700N & 900W	(.25 mi. West)
G	Golf	SW Elwood	700E (Tip. Co.) & SR 28	(.3 Mi. S.)
H	Hotel	N Markleville	575S & 300E	(.25 Mi. East)
I	India	SW Anderson	I69 & SR9/67	(.2 Mi. South)
J	Juliet	W Anderson	250S & 500W	(.25 Mi. West)
K	Kilo	NW Anderson	300N & 500W	(.1 Mi. South)
L	Lima	Linwood	600N & 100W	(EOC)
N	November	Anderson Airport	SR 32 & 300 East	(In Tower)
O	Oscar	Orestes	1100N & 400W	(.1 Mi. North)
P	Papa	SW Summitville	1550N & 300W	
R	Romeo	N Elwood	1600N & 900W	(SR 13)
S	Sierra	NW Summitville	1850N & 300W	(.25 Mi. East)