

Kane County Amateur Radio Emergency Service



SKYWARN Severe Weather Net Script

This script is to be used when severe weather is approaching or has reached Kane 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 Kane 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 Kane Co ARES EC (Debby Gray, WX9VOR) 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**, **NWSChat** and **kc-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 KC9AES for Kane Co 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.
- 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: Attention all stations. This is <name> <call> acting as Net Control KC9AES for Kane County ARES. The National Weather Service has issued a <type of watch> for Kane County effective until <watch end time>. As a result we are activating a SKYWARN Stand-By Net at this time. BREAK for more.
<Pause>

NC: We ask all active stations continue to 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 a Kane Co ARES or OEM station that can assist by serving as an Alternate Net Control Station that? If so, please call now and indicate if you have access to radar and or the kc-ares slack chatroom. <Pause>

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

NC: Is there someone at the Kane County EOC monitoring this frequency? <Pause>

< Make note in log if there is a response in case any traffic needs to be forwarded to KC OEM. If no response, just check again every 20-30 minutes. They may not be immediately staffed. >

NC: This is KC9AES Net Control and again we are running a Stand-By net at this time due to <type of watch> in affect for Kane Co 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 KC9AES for Kane County ARES. This net is now in stand-by mode. Please 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 you feel that the weather situation is escalating, you should consider taking check-in's and determining 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 Kane Co ARES members to help monitor radar, further NWS announcements, and what weather is developing in counties next to Kane 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 Kane Co 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 (Debby WX9VOR) within 24-48 hours.

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Part Two – Spotter Check-in's

NC: Attention all stations. This is *<name> <call>* acting as Net Control KC9AES for Kane County ARES. We will now take check-in's as follows – mobile spotters who are Kane Co ARES members will be asked to check-in first, then any visiting trained mobile spotters. Any trained spotters keeping watch from home will also be able to check in after the mobile spotters. Do NOT leave the net with out checking out for safety sake.

A note to visitors – you are welcome on this net, but if you have not completed the official NWS Spotter training within the past 2 years, we invite you to listen only. Please do NOT attempt to check in or pass traffic unless you have an emergency situation. Any stations with questions regarding the Skywarn program requirements can check the NWS Chicago website for further details. BREAK for more.

< Pause >

NC: We will now begin check-in's for mobile spotters. Again, do not leave without checking out. All stations, please give your call sign only and wait for acknowledgment from Net Control. Then respond with your name, your current location, and any special capabilities such as APRS tracking, or limitations you may have such as low power, HT, or 2m operation only. Kane Co ARES members who are mobile spotting, please check in now.

< Note each KC 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 KC9AES Net Control. Trained mobile spotters not a part of Kane Co ARES who wish to check in, please call now.

< Do the same logging for each visiting mobile spotter. We wish to be courteous and will pass along their reports to the NWS in the same manner as KC ARES spotters.

We will have to take their indication of trained mobile spotter on faith, but if you receive inappropriate reports from any visiting spotters, feel free to kindly ask them to listen only for the rest of the net. Let the Kane Co EC know of any visiting spotters who appear to be under-trained or cause any difficulties with the net. >

NC: This is KC9AES Net Control. Trained stationary spotters who wish to check in, please call now.

< Repeat the same logging, although these stations will not need the periodic safety checks. >

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NC: This is KC9AES Net Control. Thank you for your assistance and patience. Again, please do not leave this net without checking out with Net Control first. We do this as a safety precaution for everyone's sake. A reminder, we will follow the NWS criteria for reporting severe weather 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 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 Kane Co such that Kane 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 KC9AES for Kane County ARES. The National Weather Service has issued a *<type of warning>* for Kane County effective until *< warning end time>*. As a result we are activating an Active SKYWARN directed net at this time and stations are requested to address all communications to Net Control. Stations with 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 emergency or 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 (Malta / DeKalb is the closest) and net control may have to ask another Kane 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: This is KC9AES, Net Control for the Kane County Amateur Radio Emergency Service. The National Weather Service has issued a *<type of warning>* for Kane 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. >

NC: This is KC9AES, Net Control for Kane Co ARES, using the *<repeater callsign>*. An Active SKYWARN Net is now in session and 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 with KC OEM as much as possible. Coordinate and verify log information with the Alt. NCS as needed.

Take breaks!

ROLL CALL Script:

NC: Attention all stations, this is KC9AES. We will now conduct a safety check of all mobile 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 KC9AES on the *<repeater callsign>* repeater for Kane County ARES. We still have an active SKYWARN net in progress and all stations are requested to direct all traffic to net control.

All activity should be logged and a copy of the logs sent in some form (scanned, picture, or typed) to the EC (Debby WX9VOR at emco@kanecountyares.org) within 24-48 hours.
