



# SKYWARN

## Net Operations

Lesson 2 – What Is A Good SKYWARN Report?  
For Amateur Radio SKYWARN Nets  
In Bergen and Passaic Counties  
On The W2PQG Repeater



# 1. First, Exactly What Is A SKYWARN Net?

- A Local Public Service Radio Net Conducted To Collect Ground Truth Weather Information From Trained NWS SKYWARN Spotters
  - ◆ Can Be Formal (Directed) or Informal Depending On The Nature And Status Of The Event
    - ◆ These Nets are conducted solely for the collection of Ground Truth Weather Data
      - *When SKYWARN has not been activated by the NWS and a Net is operating in a Stand-by mode, associated with possible developing Severe Weather, it is called a Weather Net and not a SKYWARN Net*
    - ◆ These Nets may be initiated by a local or regional SKYWARN Coordinator whenever conditions merit.



## 2. What Type Of Information Is Collected During A SKYWARN Net?

### ■ Reportable Ground Truth Weather Information

- ◆ Note: The Reporting Criteria Changes During The Warm Season and The Cool Season But Always Includes
  - ◆ Developing Severe Weather
  - ◆ Occurring Severe Weather
  - ◆ Previously Observed Severe Weather
  - ◆ Verifiable Storm Damage Reports
  - ◆ And May Also Include Other Specific Weather Data Related To An Event As Requested By The NWS
    - Snow or Rainfall Totals
    - Current Freeze-Line Location
    - Or Other Items As Requested By The NWS



### 3. What Type Of Information Is Not Collected During A SKYWARN Net?

- No 2nd or 3rd Hand Reports - Please!
  - ◆ Due to the inherent lack of verifiability of these type of Reports, information from Scanners, Other Radio Services, Cable Television, Broadcast Radio or Television and the Internet is not collected nor should it be given on Bergen-Passaic Skywarn Nets
    - ◆ *The only exception is for information relayed into the Net from appointed official Net Liaison Stations*



## 4. What Information Is Not Needed During A SKYWARN Net?

- Do Not Give Non-severe or General Weather Information
  - ◆ “Its Sunny Here!!!”
  - ◆ “I See Clouds Moving Across The Sky!!!”
  - ◆ “I See Severe Lightning And I Hear Thunder!!!”
    - ◆ Lightning, in any intensity, is not a Severe Weather indicator
      - *Lightning is inherent to all Thunderstorms, however when Storm Damage Reports are requested on the Net, confirmed lightning strikes, that also resulted in damage, are appropriate*
  - ◆ The only time a lightning report is requested on a SKYWARN or Weather Net is when lightning is observed, or thunder is heard, during a Snow or Ice event



## 5. What Information Is Not Needed During A SKYWARN Net (continued 1)

- Do Not Ask For Information That Would Impede The Net!
  - ◆ “How Is The Traffic Moving On Route 17?”
  - ◆ “Can I Get A Radio Check?”
  - ◆ “Is There A SKYWARN Net In Operation?”
  - ◆ “What’s Wrong With The Courtesy Tone?”
    - ◆ *On the W2PQG 2 Meter Repeater, the Courtesy Tone will normally be changed from its normal CW ‘K’ to a CW ‘S’ during SKYWARN and Weather Nets.*
  - ◆ “How Can I Become A SKYWARN Spotter?”
    - ◆ *Information on SKYWARN Spotter Training Classes and Weekly SKYWARN Training Drill Nets can be found on the BergenSkywarn Website at: [www.bergenskywarn.org](http://www.bergenskywarn.org)*



## 6. With All The Said, Then What Exactly Is A Good SKYWARN Report?

- A Good SKYWARN Report Is Always Very Precise and Very Concise:
  - ◆ *“Net Control from K2DBK”*
  - ◆ *“K2DBK, Go To Net”*
  - ◆ *“I See A Wall Cloud Developing East Of Route 17 In The Lodi Area. Some Slow Rotation Is Occurring At This Time. I Will Continue To Observe. K2DBK Back To Net”*
  - ◆ *“Thank You K2DBK, This Is KC2GLG Net Control Standing By”*



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Thank You For Your Interest In  
The Bergen and Passaic Counties  
SKYWARN Program  
[www.bergenskywarn.org](http://www.bergenskywarn.org)