

Storm Spotting Process for Peoria County Ham Radio Operators

The following process is followed when Severe Weather Conditions are developing:

Peoria County EMA sends out a Code Red notification via telephone and text messaging to a pre-determined list of cell phone numbers (and providers) corresponding to active Weather Spotters.

One Ham Radio Operator becomes the Net Control Operator (NCO) and starts a Storm Spotting Net from wherever located using the W9UVI repeater, at 147.075 MHz (uses a 156.7 CTCSS tone.) When the 075 Repeater is unavailable, the following repeaters or frequencies should be used, in the order shown:

146.970	W9BFD
146.850	K9PEO
146.535	Simplex

All Peoria County ARES Members should have the above frequencies programmed into all of their radios.

Available storm spotters check-in to the Storm Spotting Net. One spotter volunteers to report to the bunker to take over Net Control from that location. (Prefer to have two licensed operators present there.) Typically, someone from the Peoria County EMA will also be present at the bunker.

When the volunteer has arrived at the bunker, Net Control is handed off to the bunker. One volunteer operator becomes NCO, and the other volunteer performs record keeping to help track spotters and their locations, and any changes that occur. Coordination with the County helps avoid spotter overlap with the County's Storm Spotters.

Spotting reports may come in via radio, text messages, cell phone.

All significant storm spotting results are relayed to NWS in Lincoln.

Optionally, spotting reports or NWS Bulletins may be rebroadcast to the Storm Spotting Net participants, to keep them informed of developments.

When storm conditions change such that the NWS cancels the warning/watch, the NCO broadcasts such and asks each Storm Spotter to confirm receipt of the message, and check-out of the net. When all have replied and checked out, the Storm Spotting Net is concluded.

This document originally created by Rich Holtman, KD9ANU, based on a meeting with Fritz Bock WD9FMB, Mark Suhs W9WGN, and Jim Polson W9JDP, on 01/14/2015.

Revised on as of 01/31/2019, based on current practice.