

SCARS Severe Weather Nets

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Presentation Slides at <https://w5nor.org/weather/>

Weather Ready Nation

- **SCARS is an ambassador with the NWS Weather-Ready Nation program**
- **The NWS provides information periodically**
- **Presentations like this, newsletter articles, and weather nets are major parts of this program**
- **<https://w5nor.org/wrn/>**



Stay Informed During Severe Weather

Have multiple sources of information during severe weather:

- **NWS Weather Radio – 162.400 MHz**
- **Amateur Radio – 147.06 MHz / 145.410 MHz / DMR 31408**
- **Internet Sources - <https://www.weather.gov/oun/>**
- **mPING – <https://mping.nssl.noaa.gov/>**
- **Broadcast Media – 4 / 5 / 9 / 25**

Program Your NOAA WX Radio

- **Have a NOAA Alert Weather Radio? Make sure you have the right FIPS Code**
- **<https://www.weather.gov/oun/radio>**
- **OKC/Norman VHF FM Weather Radio is at 162.400 MHz**

Build a NOAA Weather Radio Antenna

- **The National Weather Service (NWS) has a great article on building an external antenna for your weather radio. A number of these radios have an RCA jack that can be used for this purpose. An RCA jack to F connector will make the connection easy.**
- **<https://w5nor.org/wxradio/>**

Local Severe Weather Nets

Cleveland County

- **147.06 +600 offset and 141.3 tone**
- **146.88 -600 offset (currently out of service)**
- **443.700 +5 offset and 141.3 tone**
- **147.06 simplex (should repeaters not be available)**

Oklahoma City

- **145.410 +600 offset and 141.3 tone – NWS transmits here**

Statewide DMR Weather Nets

- **DMR – Talk Group 31408 – Static linking on most OK repeaters**
- **This talk group is active statewide during severe weather.**
- **Every Saturday morning at 8:00 am local, there is a weather net. This net talks about weather for the coming week.**

Internet Weather Sites

- [**https://weather.gov/oun**](https://weather.gov/oun)
- [**https://weatherunderground.com**](https://weatherunderground.com)
- [**https://lightningmaps.org**](https://lightningmaps.org)
- [**https://www.ventusky.com/**](https://www.ventusky.com/)
- [**https://w5nor.org/weather/**](https://w5nor.org/weather/)

mPING Real Time Reporting

<https://mping.nssl.noaa.gov/>

- **Report in real time from your phone**
- **Test, Rain and/or Snow, Freezing Rain / Ice, Snow, Hail (including size), Wind Damage, Water Spout, Tornado (on ground), Flood, Mudslide/Landslide, Reduced Visibility**
- **Free apps for Android and Apple**
- **Dr. Kim Elmore N5OP is principal investigator**



Broadcast Media

- **Local News – available on channel 4 / 5 / 9 / 25**
- **Audio from these stations is available on various OKC FM radio stations**

SCARS Weather Nets

- **SCARS nets serves the Cleveland County area**
- **Nets open for:**
 - **Severe Weather Warning**
 - **Tornado Warning**
 - **Other situations as required**
- **Net Control Operators open nets as needed**
- **Cleveland County SkyWarn Operations Plan**
- **<https://w5nor.org/skywarn-plan/>**

SkyWarns Three Goals

- **Gather first-hand reports of weather events which meet or exceed severe thresholds (as defined by the NWS) and pass them on to the local Forecast office in a timely manner;**
- **Disseminate severe weather information to spotters in the field so they may better prepare themselves, their families, and/or their organizations;**
- **Provide timely severe weather information to local, county and state officials as needed.**

Deployment

- **SCARS uses “Report-in-place”**
 - We have members all over the county, and beyond
 - Stay at home and report from where you are
- **Deploying in a Remote Location adds to the clutter in the field**
- **Travel during Severe Weather is discouraged.**
- **Do not “Drive South”**

Weather Reporting Criteria

- **Hail – 1-inch minimum. Quarter size or greater.**
- **Wind – Greater than 58 MPH / 50 knots.**
- **Tornado on the ground.**
- **Funnel Cloud.**
- **Rotating Wall Cloud.**
- **Persistent Wall Cloud.**
- **Rainfall, 1 inch or more per hour.**
- **Flash Flooding.**
- **Other items, as requested.**

Reporting on the Nets

- **Please be careful to report only conditions which meet the criteria given by net control. ALWAYS go through net-control, and give your information as clearly and calmly as possible.**
- **Please do not relay any reports that you don't have first-hand knowledge of.**
- **When the net control operator needs information from a specific area during severe weather outbreaks, they will request it. If you are in the area, feel free to respond, and report your situation. Please do not volunteer information unless a net control operator requests it.**

Reporting on the Nets

- **Please do not report power outages. In the Cleveland County area, both OG&E and OEC have 'smart meters' that will report your power outage immediately.**
- **OG&E customer service is available at 405-272-9595.**
- **OEC is available at 405-321-2024.**
- **Outage data is available at <https://poweroutages.us>**

NWS Backchannel Chat Program

- **NWS uses a two way chat system to send and receive current information**
- **SCARS members use this to relay information to and from the NWS in real time**
- **ONLY what we know / seen is relayed to the NWS**
- **Academics, media, NWS, hams, and Emergency Managers are on this system**

Prepare Your Radios

- **The weather net can be heard on the 147.060 +600 tone 141.3 repeater in Norman.**
- **Backup repeater is the W5OU 146.88 MHz (minus offset) machine. (Currently out of service)**
- **Backup repeater is the W5NOR UHF repeater on 443.700 +5 tone 141.3**
- **Set up your radio for SIMPLEX operation on 147.060 No CTCSS tone is required, and you will program your radio to TRANSMIT AND RECEIVE on 147.060.**

Prepare Your Station

- **Antenna to operate simplex**
- **Emergency radio power**
 - **Generator**
 - **Batteries**
- **Flashlights**
- **Fuel tanks full**
- **Know your location**

Typical Net Opening Criteria

- **Tornado Warning for Cleveland County**
- **Thunderstorm Warning for Cleveland County**
- **Great potential for a Tornado or Thunderstorm warning for Cleveland County.**
- **Any event that requires organized communications.**

Want To Get More Involved

- **Join ARES – <https://aresok.org/join/>**
- **Contact Cleveland County ARES Emergency Coordinator**
 - **Randy McGuckin W6KPR**
 - **randymm@me.com**
- **Contact Cleveland County ARES Net Director**
 - **Phil Sinnett KD5UGO**
 - **sinnettpm@gmail.com**

Questions?