



Net Procedures and Guidelines



NET ACTIVATION PROCEDURES

The LIRA Storm Team Leaders have the option to activate the Severe Weather Net when severe weather is expected to affect our area. The Lawton Independent Repeater Alliance Severe Weather Net can be activated in many ways and is activated for many forms of anticipated severe weather including tornadoes, severe thunderstorms, floods, and severe winter storms.

In our coverage area a formal activation only occurs through the Storm Team Leader In Charge and the Storm Team Leaders.

The Lawton Independent Repeater Alliance Severe Weather Net activates to ALERT Status under the following conditions:

1. A Tornado Watch, Severe Thunderstorm Watch, Hurricane Watch, etc. is issued that includes one or more counties in the KSWO/NWS Norman County Warning Area (CWA).
2. Severe weather is occurring, or is expected to develop, within the KSWO/Norman CWA. (This does apply to isolated, short-lived storms.)
3. A communications emergency exists at KSWO/NWS, such that amateur radio might be used to contact and coordinate with other NWS offices, emergency management agencies, etc.
4. A major winter storm is imminent, or is expected to affect the area.

The Lawton Independent Repeater Alliance Severe Weather Net goes into Full Activation under the following conditions:

1. A Tornado Warning, Severe Thunderstorm Warning, Winter Weather Warning, etc. is issued that includes one or more counties in the KSWO/NWS Norman County Warning Area (CWA).
2. Severe weather is occurring, or is expected to develop, within the KSWO/Norman CWA. (This does apply to isolated, short-lived storms.)

Activation Time Frames

The Lawton Independent Repeater Alliance Severe Weather Net will be activated to **Alert Status** when a Tornado Watch, Severe Thunderstorm Watch, etc. is issued for any counties in the KSWO/Norman CWA. Once the Severe Weather begins and is within a 2 hour window of reaching our coverage area, Spotters will be deployed to the threat area. The lead-time in such situations will range from zero (0) to six (6) hours. Thunderstorms may develop and intensify rapidly and are often life-threatening situations. Once the Severe Weather enters our coverage area, The Lawton Independent Repeater Alliance Severe Weather Net will go into **Full Activation**. The Lawton Independent Repeater Alliance Severe Weather Net may remain activated from one to as many as twenty-four hours or more, depending on the coverage and severity of the weather situation. During long-lead time severe weather events such as winter storms, the LIRA Severe Weather Net may be activated when a WARNING is issued. Lead time may be anywhere from zero (0) to twelve (12) hours. Long-term events could cause the LIRA Severe Weather Net to be activated for extended periods of time, although this type of activation is somewhat rare. Overnight stays are sometimes a necessity, and that contingency should be planned for well in advance.

Net Control Operator Personnel List

The Lawton Independent Repeater Alliance Storm Team Leader In Charge will prepare and continually update a list of Operators and Net Control Stations who are qualified to run the LIRA Severe Weather Net. The goal is to have enough NCS's and Operators on the list to provide adequate coverage any time of day, any day of the week, although earlier on in the day or early afternoon this is sometimes difficult to do.

The LIRA Storm Team Leader In Charge must be able to contact NCS's, Operators, and other Net members at any time and therefore should have their email address, home phone, work phone, and if available, cellular, fax or pager numbers.

The Lawton Independent Repeater Alliance Severe Weather Net will be Activated as needed, 24 HOURS A DAY, 365 DAYS A YEAR.

Accepting Severe Weather Reports

The National Weather Service has established guidelines and criteria for determining whether a particular storm is severe. The guidelines are located in the Lawton Independent Repeater Alliance Severe Weather Reporting Criteria. It is important to learn these guidelines so that you can easily decide which of the many reports received actually constitute severe weather. Reports of damage or actual weather events that meet the criteria for a severe storm should be passed on to forecasters as soon as possible.

Every net activation will be different, and from time to time, the NCS may need to limit the types of reports that are taken over the net or hold certain severe weather reports that otherwise meet the reporting criteria. This situation usually occurs when widespread or extremely dangerous severe thunderstorms and/or tornadoes are occurring. The Operator / NCS must be able to determine, through interaction with forecasters, which reports are the most critical and which ones can be held. Remember, however, that ALL reports meeting the NWS criteria should be logged and saved.

Often, spotters will report events that do not meet the criteria set forth by the NWS for severe weather. And while this can be extremely frustrating to the net control station, the NCS should be as courteous as possible to the report giver. Explain to him the nature of the reports you are looking for, and make note of his location, as you may need to contact him again if severe weather moves into his area. The station giving you the report might be the station that gives you a serious severe weather report later on in your NCS shift. The LIRA Severe Weather Net is not a time to express opinions.

It is critical that **ALL** reports received during a LIRA Severe Weather Net activation be logged by the NCS. The following information should be included in every report:

1. What is occurring / what happened?
 - a. tornado, wall cloud, funnel cloud
 - b. rain in excess of 1" per hour (make sure to note whether or not it is measured or estimated)
 - c. hail (MUST INCLUDE SIZE)
 - d. damaging winds (estimated or measured)
 - e. flooding (other than minor street flooding-this is a common occurrence during severe storms)
 - f. wind or hail damage

- g. other significant weather and/or damage
- 2. The exact location of the event in reference to well-known towns, landmarks, intersections, etc
- 3. The exact time the event occurred
- 4. If it's a second/third hand report, the source of the original report, along with all pertinent information (1-3 above)
- 5. Reporter's information (name, call sign)

This information, along with any other details, should be logged and should be provided to the KSWO/NWS Norman as soon as possible.