



Lucas County ARES

Amateur Radio Emergency Service

W8MTU

Proudly and Professionally Serving North West Ohio Agencies

LUCAS COUNTY ARES SKYWARN POLICY & GUIDELINES

Purpose

The purpose of this document is to provide information about an amateur radio SKYWARN storm spotter net based in Lucas County, Ohio.

About SKYWARN®

SKYWARN® is a volunteer program of the U.S. National Weather Service (NWS). Trained, volunteer severe weather spotters provide timely and accurate reports of severe weather to the NWS. Many (but not all) of these spotters are federally licensed amateur (ham) radio operators who use their radios to make their reports.

Lucas County SKYWARN net

During periods of severe weather, amateur radio operators in and near Lucas County, OH tune their radios to a common frequency, creating a radio net of storm spotters.

The Lucas County SKYWARN net makes use of the following repeater stations to enable maximum geographical coverage:

Primary repeater: 146.940 MHz 103.5 PL Encode and Decode. Can be linked to 444.950 PL Encode of 103.5 (N8LPQ Repeaters)

Secondary repeater (when primary unavailable): 444.925 103.5 PL Encode. ARES W8MTU Repeater.

Additional backup repeaters (if needed): 147.375 and 146.610 both with PL 103.5 Encode.



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Additional backup repeaters (if needed): 147.270/442.850 PL 103.5 Encode. W8HHF
Linked Repeaters

Lucas County SKYWARN Net Operations

Operation Modes:

The Lucas County SKYWARN net operates in one of two modes, **STANDBY** and **DIRECTED NET**.

Standby Net:

The National Weather Service (NWS) Cleveland Ohio office has issued a Thunderstorm and or a Tornado watch for Lucas County Ohio. Or a **Severe Weather Warning (Severe Thunderstorm or Tornado warning)** has been issued for directly adjacent counties in Ohio or Michigan and is likely headed into Lucas County Ohio. A directed net is **NOT** yet required. A Net Control Station (NCS) will announce the watch as issued by The National Weather Service (NWS) Cleveland and the standby mode on the repeater. *The Net Control Station will initiate or cause to be initiated a LCARES groups.io email notice of the Skywarn Net, and mode of the net.*

The Net Control Station (NCS) will monitor the repeater and the weather situation in the area. Normal use of the repeater continues. The NCS monitors the net repeater and the weather situation.



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Directed Net:

Severe weather warning has been issued for Lucas County Ohio.

Severe Weather warnings (**Thunderstorm or Tornado**) in effect for Lucas County Ohio, will **ALWAYS** require a directed net. The Net Control Station (NCS) should seek an Alternate Net Control / Liaison Station for communication and reports with and to the National Weather Service (NWS) Cleveland Office by telephone and or DMR radio.

In addition, the Net Control Station will initiate or cause to be initiated a LCARES groups.io email notice of the Skywarn Net, and mode of the net.

Net Control Scripts

A different document, “Lucas County Skywarn Script” provides additional information for Skywarn Net Control Stations.

Lucas County ARES / Skywarn Station at the Lucas County EMA

At the direction of the Lucas County EMA. The Lucas County Skywarn Coordinator or the designee will contact the EMA by voice phone with their intention of arriving at the EOC to activate a Skywarn Radio Net. The 24/7 phone number is 419-213-6505. The call back you receive on your phone may in fact be from a different phone number.

If during a Skywarn Net operation you receive a request from the National Weather Service Office to photograph or view damage at a location in our area of responsibility. Please contact Lucas County EMA for permission to do so.



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Lucas County ARES Skywarn Net Reporting

The ARRL / ARES has a MOU with the National Weather Service regarding Skywarn. That coupled with the Incident Command System provides guidelines for information. The Lucas County Skywarn Net Control Station will submit reports to the EC. While the current online reporting system at lucasares.org will provide basic information about the skywarn net, ie: date, time, checkin's for monthly reporting by the EC.

The log of events during the Skywarn Net will require a different form. The ICS-214 should be sufficient for the log. The Lucas County Skywarn Net Control Station will submit the online form at lucasares.org. In consideration of ICS system and the basic chain of command.

The Lucas County Skywarn Net Control Station will submit an ICS-214 to the Lucas County ARES EC. The Lucas County ARES EC will review the ICS-214 and deciminate the form as needed or requested further up the chain of command including the Lucas County EMA and the National Weather Service.