

147.345 Mhz Becker, MN Repeater Reporting to Chanhassen NWS

Should the National Weather Service Forecast Office in Chanhassen, MN activate their amateur radio operations (KØMPX) for a severe weather event in their County Warning Area, the 147.345mhz (+600khz offset) amateur radio repeater in Becker, MN (hereafter: Becker repeater) will be made available for their primary use. The NWS will be the primary operator for the repeater, as described later in this document.

Mission

The main mission of the Becker repeater is to ease traffic handling of severe weather spotter reports for the National Weather Service in Chanhassen, MN (NWS). During times of hazardous weather, this will increase reporting efficiency by having a single contact point for the multiple agencies that report severe weather to the NWS utilizing amateur radio. This repeater will act as a hub for severe weather reports from other directed nets within its coverage area as designated by the Warning Coordination Meteorologist at the Chanhassen NWS office.

Procedures

Outline:

- During severe weather, the National Weather Service will be the primary operator, or relay station.
- Local Skywarn Networks will operate on their own frequencies.
- All reports received from those directed nets will be relayed through the Becker repeater to the NWS.
- The NWS, as primary operators, will be able to request information as well as receive information from the various organizations that use the Becker repeater as their reporting platform.
- Reports will NOT be taken directly from Skywarn spotters or Storm Chasers on the 147.345 repeater. All reports are to first be taken by local spotter nets whenever possible. Likewise, whenever possible, all requests from the NWS are to be made to the local organizations, not individuals.

KØMPX Operating Practices:

The following are the operating procedures for the Becker Repeater for severe weather operations:

Opening Radio Operations:

“BREAK” This is KØMPX, the National Weather Service in Chanhassen, requesting a clear frequency on the KØOS repeater. All non-emergency traffic is requested to QSY, thank you.

Is there any emergency traffic at this time? (Pause)

At this time, the National Weather Service in Chanhassen will be conducting Skywarn radio operations in response to severe weather in the following areas: (name areas) and will be running a closed net for reporting of severe weather conditions. It is asked that all severe weather reports be relayed through your local Skywarn nets. No direct reporting from spotters will be taken on this frequency unless requested.

All Skywarn Net Control Operators, please check in now with your call sign and level of readiness. (Poll available stations to find availability of Spotter Networks.)

Updates:

As time permits, or during times of inactivity, the radio operator at KØMPX will query the net control operators of the Skywarn organizations about their status to ensure that any status changes can be noted. The radio operator will also remind stations that reports are to first be made to local Skywarn nets and not directly to KØMPX by reading the following:

“This is KØMPX, the National Weather Service in Chanhassen, MN, on the 147.345 repeater operating a closed net for reporting of severe weather events. It is asked that all severe weather reports be relayed through your local Skywarn nets. No direct reporting from spotters will be taken on this frequency unless requested.”

Closing Radio Operations:

This now concludes the closed net for severe weather operations at the National Weather Service. We would like to thank everyone for their participation in tonight’s event. Your reports allow us to better warn the public. This repeater is now returned to general amateur use. KØMPX clear.

Local Skywarn Organization Procedures:

Local Skywarn nets will communicate with KØMPX through the Becker Repeater that their nets have become active, and give their level of readiness.

Opening of Net:

KØMPX, this is (Net control station call) of (reporting organization), our net is currently operating at (level of readiness). We are now available for relay of severe weather reports.

Closing of Net:

KØMPX, this is (Net control station call) of (reporting organization), our net is currently standing down. This is (call sign) of (reporting organization) signing clear from the Severe Weather Relay Net.

Backup Procedures

In the event the Becker repeater should become unreachable, the NWS will have a plan for continuing operations on an alternate frequency. These plans will be detailed in the National Weather Service Operating Procedures.

Updating of procedures

These procedures will be reviewed yearly by the Warning Coordination Meteorologist at the Chanhassen National Weather Service Office along with the Control Operator of the Becker repeater.

Addendum A:

Example of exchange throughout a net:

KØMPX:

“BREAK” This is KØMPX, the National Weather Service in Chanhassen, requesting a clear frequency on the KØOS repeater. All non-emergency traffic is requested to QSY, thank you.

Is there any emergency traffic at this time?

Nothing heard.

At this time, the National Weather Service in Chanhassen will be conducting Skywarn radio operations in response to severe weather in the following areas:

-ZYG county

-QWE County

-ASDF metro area

and will be running a closed net for reporting of severe weather conditions. It is asked that all severe weather reports be relayed through your local Skywarn nets. No direct reporting from spotters will be taken on this frequency unless requested.

All Skywarn Net Control operators, please check in now with your call sign and level of readiness.

Skywarn Net 1:

This is KØABC of ZYG County Skywarn ready with spotters currently deploying. Full readiness in 5 minutes.

Skywarn Net 2:

This is ASDF metro area Skywarn. Our net is currently active with spotters deploying. We are currently at full readiness. This is WØGHI standing by.

KØMPX:

Thank You. At this time we have a Severe Thunderstorm Warning of counties ZYG and QWE. We expect this storm to continue moving to the Southeast at 20 mph. This storm will affect the ASDF metro area in approximately 20 minutes.

ZYG county Skywarn, we are currently looking for reports in the Northeast portion of your county.

Skywarn Net 1:

KØMPX, this is ZYG County Skywarn. We have a spotter reporting Golf-Ball sized hail 4 miles North of Wallville. This is KØABC.

KØMPX:

Roger that. Thank you for the report.

KØMPX:

This is KØMPX, the National Weather Service in Chanhassen, MN, on the 147.345 repeater operating a closed net for reporting of severe weather events. It is asked that all severe weather reports be relayed through your local Skywarn nets. No direct reporting from spotters will be taken on this frequency unless requested.

(Event passes)

Skywarn Net 1:

KØMPX, this is KØABC of ZYX County Skywarn, our net is currently standing down. This is KØABC of ZYX County Skywarn signing clear from the Severe Weather Net.

Skywarn Net 2:

KØMPX, this is ASDF metro area Skywarn, our net is currently standing down. This is WØGHI of ASDF metro area Skywarn signing clear from the Severe Weather Net.

KØMPX:

ZYX county and ASDF metro area Skywarn, I copy you standing down.

(all local nets are closed)

This now concludes the closed net for severe weather operations at the National Weather Service. We would like to thank everyone for their participation in tonight's event. Your reports allow us to better warn the public. This repeater is now returned to general amateur use. KØMPX clear.

Contacts:

Questions or comments regarding this document can be directed to the following:

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