

Info Provided by KB5VDB

The primary "Skywarn" repeater system in northeast Oklahoma and northwest Arkansas is the Tulsa Amateur Radio Club's UHF Linked Repeater System. It was designed so the Meteorologists at The National Weather Service office Tulsa can communicate with EOCs, (Emergency Operations Centers) and weather spotters in the 29 counties in northeast Oklahoma, and the 7 counties in northwest Arkansas. It is comprised of 17 different repeaters. The 443.8500 repeater in Tulsa is the backbone of the system. This repeater does have a back-up repeater, the 443.7500 in Tulsa. (If the 85 repeater fails, someone will have to physically go to the 75 site, and manually switch control to the 75 machine) Then there is the 442.8000 repeater in Mannford, then the 444.425 repeater in Bartlesville, Oklahoma. Then there is the 444.525 repeater in Stillwater, Oklahoma. Then there is the 443.1000 repeater in Muskogee, Oklahoma. Then there is the 444.7000 repeater in Ponca City, Oklahoma. Then there is the 442.225 repeater in Tahlequah, Oklahoma. Then there is the 442.250 repeater in Poteau, Oklahoma. (It provides coverage for the Fort Smith, Arkansas area) Next is the 442.400 repeater in Daisy, Oklahoma. (Between McAlister, and Atoka, Oklahoma. It may be off the air temporarily) then there is the 444.275 repeater in Nowata, Oklahoma. The 444.875 repeater in Afton was recently moved from Ketchum, Oklahoma. There is the 443.2500 repeater in Edmond, Oklahoma. Next is the 442.8500 repeater in Decatur, Arkansas. It is the only repeater in the system to require a different PL-Tone. (123.0) and finally there is the 444.925 repeater in Fayetteville, Arkansas. There is a secondary "Skywarn" repeater in the Tulsa Area. It is 146.8800. The PL-Tone is 88.5. It also has 2 separate receivers, one in Skiatook which has a PL-Tone of 85,5, and another receiver at Keetonville which has a PL-Tone of 141.3. It is used if a possible tornadic storm that is moving through Tulsa County. The Roger's County Wireless Association relays information from the NWS, and takes weather reports on their 147.0900 repeater in Claremore, and the Broken Arrow Emergency Management Agency, passes information on 146.9100. The Creek County AREA Group might start taking weather information on the 145.4300 repeater in Sapulpa. It would be great if all weather spotters had some weather spotting training before they begin to report storm conditions, but that is not always possible. Some areas require all spotters to be trained before they accept reports. A few years in Wichita Falls, Texas, a well known storm chaser from Australia who spends each spring chasing storms in "Tornado Alley" The NCO taking reports refused to acknowledge his reports because he was not a member of the local club. This man has been featured on The Weather Channel, and had been featured in Tornado Documentaries. Once I took my mother to see her cousin in Wichita, Kansas, and there was a tornado. I brought up the local repeater, gave them my call, and told them that I was very

involved in weather activities in Tulsa. They wouldn't recognize me until my cousin got on 3rd party traffic, and identified himself by his CB "Handle"

If I forgot something, or you have any questions please contact me. KB5VDB

This system is open for general chit-chat unless weather net is in progress. There is a NOAA Weather Radio receiver built into the system, and you will hear weather watch and warning information until one of the Net Control Operators switches to the Weather Net Mode. At that time the courtesy tone will change, and the call sign will change from W5IAS to WX5TUL. (Note) Just because the weather service mentions Severe Weather, we will not always have a Weather Net. The people at the NWS will decide whether or not a weather net is needed. If they do decide that a weather net is needed, they will contact one of the NCOs, who will make the announcement of an impending net. Just because an official weather net is not set in motion, remember that the radio at the National Weather Service officer are turned on, and are turned up loud enough so the people at the NWS can hear any weather information. Not all of the Meteorologists are hams, so they don't always answer. The Hams who volunteer as NCOs will be monitoring the radios, and are in direct internet contact with the NWS. They will make sure the information will be passed on.

It is very important that if you report weather conditions to the NWS, that you speak VERY PLAINLY. Give you call signs slowly, and phonetically. Use the standard phonetics, Alpha, Bravo, Charlie, Delta, Echo, Foxtrot, Golf, Hotel, India, Juliet, Kilo, Lima, Mike, November, Oscar, Papa, Quebec, Romeo, Sierra, Tango, Uniform, Victor, Whiskey, X-ray, Yankee, and Zulu. The NCOs aren't always used to hearing customized phonetics, such as Zanzibar, Japan, America, or Touchdown. Be very exact on directions. Don't say "Just Past exit ___" or "Just Before ___" Always use east, west, north, or south of ____. Don't use local landmarks, such as "The Old Red Barn on Skyline Road" Always use landmarks that can be found on a map. Try to be exact on distances. If you are reporting something that happened before you report, please be as exact as possible on how much time has elapsed. Do Not try to make your reports if your radio cannot be heard by the repeater. Please don't try to use a talkie in a vehicle unless you have an external antenna. (Your antenna makes up 90% of the radio system) If you have to repeat your transmission, you might be wasting air time that someone else might need to report a deadly situation.

The information that the NWS needs to hear from us is about HAIL, WIND, WALL CLOUDS, FUNNEL CLOUDS, TORNADOES, LIGHTNING STRIKES THAT CAUSE FIRES< OR EXPLOSIONS, and FLOODING IN AREAS THAT DON'T NORMALLY FLOOD. HAIL-The NWS needs to know about hail that is 1 inch in diameter, or the size of a Quarter, (Not 1/4 inch) or larger. (When I

got involved in weather, the NWS wanted to know about 1/2 inch hail. or hail that was the size of a dime. Then they wanted to know about nickel sized hail, or 1/2 inch. **THEY DO NOT WANT TO HEAR ABOUT PEA-SIZED, OR MARBLE SIZED HAIL. PEAS AND MARBLES COME IN DIFFERENT SIZES.**

WINDS- the National Weather Service needs to know about winds that are either steady, or gusting to 58 miles-per-hour. This can be measured by an anemometer, or estimated. If you estimate the wind, have a Beaufort's Wind Speed Chart with you. The older Beaufort wind charts had circles on them so you could see the diameter of tree branches that were being broken to help gauge the wind speed. **THEY DO NOT WANT TO HEAR "IT'S BLOWING REALLY HARD"**

WALL CLOUDS-The NWS needs to know about wall clouds. Not all thunder storms produce wall clouds. As conditions worsen, wall clouds may form. If a wall cloud appears watch it closely. If it begins to rotate, or lasts longer than 10 minutes **REPORT IT.**

FUNNEL CLOUDS-The Weather Service needs to know about funnel clouds. As long as the funnel cloud is not halfway to the ground it is just a funnel cloud. At the point that it extends more than half-way to the ground, or you begin to see dust or debris underneath the funnel cloud, you are now dealing with a **TORNADO.** Of course, if it touches the ground, or you begin seeing damage, it is definitely a Tornado. **NOTE ITS DIRECTION, AND POSSIBLE SPEED. ANY SIZED TORNADOES CAN CAUSE MASSIVE DAMAGE, INJURIES, AND DEATH. DO NOT MAKE YOURSELF A VICTIM OF THE STORM BY GETTING TOO CLOSE.**

THE NWS DOESN'T WANT TO HEAR, THERE'S ALOT OF LIGHTNING. THEY DO NOT WANT TO HEAR IT'S RAINING REALLY HARD. Let's play a little game. I will say "Usually Does" and you think "But Not Always" Tornadoes usually move from the southwest to the east or northeast. I hope you thought "But not always"

Tornadoes usually strike in March, April, or May. Oklahoma is on record as having tornadoes in each of the calendar months.

Tornadoes usually strike from 3 PM until 9 pm. Tornadoes can, and have happened at any time of the day.

Tornadoes usually spin in a counter clock-wise direction.

Tornadoes usually don't cross large bodies of water.

For northeast Oklahoma, and northwestern Arkansas 17 repeaters important to pause

146.88 is for storms going through Tulsa County