

## Weather Operations Center (WOC) Activation

- Facility accessed by:
  - Net Control
  - Net Support
  - Amateur Radio Base Operator & Support Staff
  - Emergency Management Coordinator



## WOC Activation

- Will be activated when:
  - Severe thunderstorm or tornado WARNING for Lee or Henry Counties
  - Severe thunderstorm or tornado WARNING for Des Moines County
  - At request of EM Coordinator
  - At request of law enforcement or firefighter
  - At discretion of Net Controller based upon perceived, specific weather threat.



## SKYWARN Spotter Activation

- When Activated:
  - Severe thunderstorms approaching DM County with confirmed or potential straight-line winds of 58 mph or greater.
  - Confirmed or potential tornado formation.
  - Des Moines County in tornado watch and storms approaching or expected to develop near or over.



## SKYWARN Spotter Activation

- When Activated (continued):
  - Trained spotter sees in or near DM County:
    - Straight-line winds
    - Funnel cloud
    - Wall cloud
    - Tornado



## SKYWARN Spotter Activation

- Announcement:
  - "Des Moines County SKYWARN Net Control requesting activation of the SKYWARN Network. All available Field Spotters please report current location and stand by for spotter location assignment."



## SKYWARN Spotter Activation

- Announcement in event not at Ops Center:
  - "(FS ID#) is assuming control of the Des Moines County SKYWARN from field location (#)."
- Amateur Radio Network will also be activated.



## Communication Protocols

- Radio Etiquette
  - Net Control may ask for only certain reports (i.e., only hail greater than 1", only tornadoes on the ground, etc.)
  - When transmitting hold button down the entire time.
  - Keep messages short and to the point.



## Communication Protocols

- Emergency – Call 9-1-1 or Use "900" in a sentence
- Back-up Communications
  - Report via telephone at 759-3627 (SKY-DOCS).



## Communication Protocols

- Activation of outdoor warning sirens will require radio silence.



## Outdoor Warning Siren System

- Activation Cycle
  - 2 minutes on, 5 minutes off
  - For duration of the threat
- Only activated for specific city or area threatened



## Outdoor Warning Siren System

- Will be activated when:
  - Tornado Warning issued by NWS
  - SKYWARN Field Spotters report rotating wall clouds, funnel clouds, and/or tornadoes
  - Trained law enforcement or firefighter sees the same
  - Imminent danger to public



## Outdoor Warning Siren System

- Will be activated when (continued):
  - Net Control's assessment of weather conditions
- NOTE: Will not be activated for a citizen's report unless confirmed



## Outdoor Warning Siren System

- Siren locations:
  - Burlington
  - West Burlington
  - Middletown
  - Yarmouth

Tested first Wednesday  
of each Month



## Outdoor Warning Siren System

- Other siren locations:
  - Danville
  - Mediapolis



## Outdoor Warning Sirens Test

- |                |   |
|----------------|---|
| ■ West Avenue  | Dave Waldorf & Casey's'                       |
| ■ Shields      | Barney Paytes & Kum-n-Go                      |
| ■ Grove Street | James Houghton                                |
| ■ City Hall    | Bob Andrews & PD                              |
| ■ Oak Street   | Scott Gillis & Family                         |
| ■ Sunnyside    | Don Lynch                                     |
| ■ JMMS         | Ryan Smith                                    |
| ■ WBMS         | Ray Conn & Broeg                              |
| ■ SCC          | Dave Fritz                                    |
| ■ Middletown   | Kevin Randall & Korver Family &<br>City Clerk |
| ■ Yarmouth     | Wistroms & Crouch family & Cafe               |



## Monthly Siren Checks Schedule

First Wednesday of the month siren checks

- 5:59 WOC requests radio silence
- 6:00 Sirens activated
- 6:02 WOC will finish radio checks, if required
- 6:06 WOC request radio silence
- 6:07 Sirens deactivated
- 6:09 WOC will finish radio checks, if required
- 6:15 Spotters report any siren that activates for third cycle, if required.



## Safety Concerns While Spotting

- Follow rules of the road
- Do not use "lights" as running
- Only amber lights allowed



## Safety Concerns While Spotting

- Spot with a partner!
- Watch for water on the road.
- Obey traffic laws.
- Keep your head on a swivel.
- Watch out for the other guy.
- Make sure you vehicle is ready for action.

