



NWS Duluth 2021 Ham Radio Coordination

Questions? Ask WCM Joe Moore at joseph.moore@noaa.gov

Activation of Skywarn Nets

- NEW** → All net controllers will now make their decision to activate *autonomously* instead of waiting for NWS to activate
- A good guideline is that if a Severe Thunderstorm or Tornado Watch has been issued, a net should plan to activate. (This is typically what NWS used.)
- To aid in activation decisions, all Skywarn Net Controllers may sign up for the free **iNWS** service to receive emails and/or text messages when NWS alerts are issued for their area (county, point, or custom defined area) at <https://inws.ncep.noaa.gov/>

Communicating reports to NWS

- NEW** → The **KØNWS Arrowhead Skywarn Response Team (ASRT)** will again be 'virtual' (operating from home, not at NWS office) this year
- NEW** → To aid in communication, NWS Duluth has created a new chat room (**dlhhamchat**) on **NWSChat** for Amateur Radio Net Controllers to communicate with NWS
- This chat room is a supplement to other communication methods, not a replacement. Net controllers who can communicate with with **KØNWS** over the air or over internet-linked services (i.e. Echolink, Fusion, Allstar) may still do so - NWSChat is a supplement/back-up.

NWSChat - dlhhamchat room

- Net Controllers may register for an NWSChat account at <https://nwschat.weather.gov/> (Accounts must be manually approved.)
- We will use the **dlhhamchat** room for net control communication to NWS, especially on busy severe weather days - you can share reports received as well as questions with NWS meteorologists through this dedicated chat room
- If you do not see an NWS employee in the chat room, you may pass on reports in the main **dlhchat** room
- If NWSChat is down, you can call in reports to NWS at **1-800-685-8612** or use the online form at <https://inws.ncep.noaa.gov/report/> (note report source if you are relaying secondhand information)
- For video tutorial on setting up NWSChat Live, watch this video: https://youtu.be/60_LTw_-yMY