

Okefenokee SKYWARN Reportable Weather Conditions:

Defined below are the weather conditions that need to be reported to Net Control during an activated Okefenokee SKYWARN Weather Net.

1. **Your Location:** (County and Address or Cross Street)
2. **Flooding:** (Define: Street, River, Stream, Home, Business)
3. **Hail:** (Define Size: Pea, Penny, Nickel, Quarter, Half Dollar, Walnut, Golf Ball, Hen Egg, Tennis Ball, Base Ball, Tea cup, Grape fruit, Softball, Giant- larger than 4.5")
4. **High Winds:** (Over 50 MPH), Give estimated or measured wind speed.
5. **Wind Damage:** (Give details such as: Small or large tree limbs down, trees uprooted, Roof or structural damage, Power lines down).
6. **Heavy Rain:** (1" per hour rate or more)
7. **Tornado:** (If observed give details of direction of travel if possible).
8. **Freezing Rain or icing:** (Report any Freezing Rain or Icing of roadways)
9. **Snow:** (Report any)

Okefenokee SKYWARN Requirements

To the only requirements to participate in the Okefenokee SKYWARN program is to hold a Technician or above Amateur Radio License and to declare a desire to participate. It is recommended that net participants attend a NWS SKYWARN Spotter class.

Any Technician or above operator who can communicate with the 145.270 repeater near Waycross Ga. can participate in Okefenokee SKYWARN activations and provide reports of observed severe weather conditions.

A session of the Okefenokee SKYWARN can be opened and controlled by any Amateur Radio Operator who is a participant in the Okefenokee SKYWARN program and who:

1. Has some basic knowledge of how to run a directed net.
2. Knows the correct procedure and where to report severe weather conditions to the NWS.

If severe weather as listed above is observed or is possible in your area or an official Warning is posted, participants should either open a Net of the Okefenokee SKYWARN and take check-ins or make contact with someone in the group who can open a net.

SKYWARN Net Location and Severe Weather Reporting

The Primary Okefenokee SKYWARN Repeater is the 145.270 repeater with the 145.370 being a back-up.

Severe weather should be reported to the NWS by Net Control either by phone at (904) 741-4370 or on the website at <http://www.srh.noaa.gov/StormReport/SubmitReport.php?site=jax>.

NWS Hail and Wind Scale

Hail Size Reference Chart	
Hail Diameter (Inches)	Reference Object
0.25	Pea
0.50	Mothball
0.75	Penny
0.88	Nickel
1.00	Quarter
1.25	Half Dollar
1.50	Ping Pong Ball
1.75	Golfball
2.00	Hen Egg
2.50	Tennis Ball
2.75	Baseball
3.00	Teacup
4.00	Grapefruit
4.50	Softball

Red indicates severe criteria

Please do not refer to "marble size" hail! It's ambiguous; please try to reference coin sizes.

PLEASE NOTE: As of January 5, 2010, the severe criterion for hail diameter changed from 3/4" to 1".

Beaufort Wind Speed Estimate Scale					
Beaufort	Description	Wind Speed		Observations	
		MPH	Knots	On Land	On Water Surfaces
0	Calm	0	0-1	Calm. Smoke rises vertically.	Waters are mirror smooth.
1	Light Air	1-3	1-3	Smokes drift indicates wind direction. Still wind vanes.	Waters have a ripple.
2	Light Breeze	4-7	4-6	Wind is felt on face, leaves rustle, wind vanes begin to move.	Small wavelets, crests glassy, no breaking.
3	Gentle Breeze	8-12	7-10	Leaves and small twigs constantly move, light flags are extended.	Large wavelets, crests begin to break, scattered whitecaps.
4	Moderate Breeze	13-18	11-16	Dust, leaves and loose paper lifted, small tree branches move.	Small waves (1-4 ft) becoming longer with numerous whitecaps.
5	Fresh Breeze	19-24	17-21	Small trees in leaf begin to sway.	Moderate waves (4-8 ft) taking longer form, many whitecaps, some spray.

6	Strong Breeze	25-31	22-27	Larger trees begin moving, whistling in wires.	Larger waves (8-13 ft), whitecaps common, more spray.
7	Near Gale	32-38	28-33	Whole trees moving, resistance felt walking against wind.	Mounting sea (seas heaps) (waves 13-20 ft), foam streaks off of breakers.
8	Gale	39-46	34-40	Whole trees in motion, resistance felt walking in wind.	Moderately high waves (13-20 ft) of greater length, edges of crests begin to break into spindrift, foam blown in streaks.
9	Strong Gale	47-54	41-47	Branches break from trees, slate blows off roofs, slight structural damage.	High waves (20 ft), sea begins to roll, dense streaks of foam, visibility affected by spray.
10	Storm	55-63	48-55	Trees broken or uprooted, considerable structural damage.	Very high waves (20-30 ft) with overhanging crests, sea white with dense blown foam, heavy sea roll, visibility impaired.
11	Violent Storm	64-73	56-63	Widespread damage.	Exceptionally high waves (30-45 ft), foam patches cover the sea, poor visibility.
12	Hurricane	74+	64+	Major damage.	Storm waves (> 45 ft), air filled with foam and spray, sea completely white, visibility bad.



OKEFENOKEE SKYWARN GROUP NET PREAMBLE

Attention all Amateur Radio SKYWARN Spotters. Attention all Amateur Radio SKYWARN Spotters. Due to the possibility of severe weather in or near our area The Okefenokee SKYWARN group is activating this net to observe and report severe weather conditions to the National Weather Service and local authorities if necessary. My name is _____. My Callsign is _____ and I will be the net control Station.

STANDBY NET: (Read if severe weather is probable but no warnings are issued at this time)

At this time there is the possibility of severe weather approaching our area but no official Warnings have been issued or severe weather conditions reported, so this net will currently operate in a standby mode and normal traffic may continue until a Warning is issued or Spotters observe severe weather conditions. If severe weather conditions are observed, please report that to this station. Should a Warning be issued or severe weather observed in our area, this net will revert to controlled status and check-ins will be taken. The SKYWARN net is now in Standby Condition and Routine Amateur traffic may proceed. This is Callsign standing by.

DIRECTED NET: (Read if Warnings are issued or reportable severe weather is observed)

At this time Severe Weather has been reported for or near our area and the Okefenokee SKYWARN group is activating a formal controlled net. I will take check-ins for those who wish to assist with reporting any observed severe weather conditions in their area. Once you check-in please only report severe weather conditions or provide information requested from you by Net Control. I will now take Check-ins.

After Check-ins read any issued Weather Warnings over the air.

CLOSE NET:

At this time all Warnings have been discontinued for our area and the threat for severe weather has diminished. I am now closing the Okefenokee SKYWARN group net and thank all who checked in and proved assistance. This is Callsign returning this frequency to normal Amateur Radio use.