



Flagler County

Assist REACT

Emergency Response

Plan

Revised March 2008

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FLAGLER COUNTY ASSIST REACT TEAM 4800 EMERGENCY PLAN Updated and Approved 3/08

AUTHORIZATION

Flagler County Assist REACT Team 4800 (hereinafter "REACT") is an independent, non-governmental organization with no official authority. At the request of Flagler County Emergency Services, Sheriff's Office, a municipality, the National Weather Service or other official agency or organization, REACT can activate to provide support during a disaster, emergency or public service event.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this plan is to provide a framework for REACT volunteer communications and support services in Flagler County.

GOALS

The goals of this plan include but are not limited to the following.

1. To maintain readiness of the organization
2. To achieve operating efficiency during any type of activation.
3. To provide guidelines and procedures to be used during various team activations.

SCOPE

This plan takes into consideration all of the resources available to REACT. Further the plan addresses how REACT can assist the following agencies:

1. Flagler County Emergency Services
2. Flagler County Sheriff's Office
3. National Weather Service Jacksonville Weather Forecast Office
4. Flagler County ARES
5. City law enforcement and fire services
6. State Emergency Service agencies
7. State Law Enforcement Agencies
8. Federal agencies.
9. Non-profit organizations in Flagler County.

PARTNERS

Flagler County Assist REACT maintains a working relationship with the following agencies and organizations.

- Flagler County Emergency Services
- City of Flagler Beach
- City of Palm Coast
- City of Bunnell
- Flagler County Sheriff's Office
- National Weather Service Jacksonville Forecast Office
- Flagler County AREC
- Flagler Emergency Communications Association
- REACT International

INITIAL RESPONSE AND ACTIVATION

Initial response and activation of REACT may occur as a response to a request from Flagler County Emergency Services, a weather related event, or other incident. Some activations may be conducted very rapidly during critical situations. Other events and situations will have a longer preparation time prior to involvement. Occasionally certain members may be activated based on their individual capabilities and/or resources.

LEVELS OF RESPONSE

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The following Levels of Response will govern all operations of Flagler County Assist REACT.

- LEVEL 0** **NORMAL** – Normal Operations, no state of alert exists
RESPONSE – None required. Continue day to day activity.
- LEVEL 1** **NOTIFICATION** – Initial notification. This may only involve key Officers, Coordinators and members who might be needed in a response.
RESPONSE – Key personnel briefed on possible activation request.
- LEVEL 2** **ALERT** – Entire organization notified of possible activation. Individual members may be activated as needs require
RESPONSE – This is the readiness request. All available volunteers should prepare for immediate activation at this point. Check equipment at this time.
- LEVEL 3** **PARTIAL ACTIVATION** – This is a partial activation of resources. Only members needed to carry out activity.
RESPONSE – Radio nets may be activated but may not be required. This is a partial activation of resources. Only the number of volunteers needed will be called upon. Others should be on high alert and be prepared for activation.
- LEVEL 4** **FULL ACTIVATION** – This is a full activation request. All available members are requested to assist.
RESPONSE – At this point we need all the help that we can get or we are working a significant event. Volunteers may be called upon to work in shifts.
- LEVEL 5** **DISASTER OPERATION** – This is the highest level of response. All available resources are in use. Outside resources may be required.
RESPONSE – We are doing everything we can with what we have to work with. This is a disaster operation. Unconventional assignments may be given.

RADIO NET OPERATIONS

These govern the net operation and are adjusted by the Event Coordinator or NCS

- OPEN NET** Free Flow operations, unit-to-unit communications
- DIRECTED NET** Directed Net, all radio traffic must go through NCS
- RESTRICTED NET** Restricted traffic only. Only priority messages are allowed. This is used during severe incidents or events.
- EMERGENCY** Life Safety Emergency – ONLY communications relative to that Emergency permitted.

TERMINOLOGY

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The following terms are used in our operations and responses

CALLER	Volunteer designated to call out Team during activation. This can be a coordinator or any member designated.
COORDINATOR	A Coordinator is a member designated to be responsible for a particular aspect of a Team response to a particular event.
EOC LIAISON	A member designated by the Emergency Management Division to be the gateway for requests and operations.
EVENT	Any situation that we are engaged with. This includes special details, emergency operations, drills, exercises, etc.
LEVEL OF RESPONSE	This is the governing level of response to guide REACT in an emergency response.
LIAISON STATION	This is a station in a Radio Net that relays information from one radio service, net or other mode of communication to another.
MOBILE UNITS	They may be mobile or portable units.
NET CONTROL STATION	This station controls and coordinates all radio traffic. NCS keeps track of mobile units and their status. Net Control Station directs/routes all communications. Net Control Station is also known as NCS.
NET (RADIO NET)	The communications net contains all radio traffic, including relays and other communications. It can be operated on any designated channel or frequency.
NET OPERATION	Governs the mode of the Net.
POST ONE	Field coordination post. Post One is established during larger operations for communication and coordination purposes. Additional Posts may be established to coordinate different functions during a large event. (Post 2, 3, etc.)
SKYWARN OPERATIONS	This position collects and documents all Skywarn reports and relays them to the NWS Forecast Office. This position activated during LEVEL 4 Skywarn Events.
STAGING AREA	This is a meeting point during a mobile activation. All units will meet at the staging area for assignment.
STAGING COORDINATOR	This individual keeps track of units and organization in the staging area.
TACTICAL COORDINATOR	This person is assigned to coordinate the response to a single event or operation.

NOTIFICATION (SEE ATTACHMENT ONE)

The initial notification of members can be conducted by a number of means. Some events may require an automatic response from all parties. See ATTACHMENT 1 for procedure. However initial notification may be made using any of the following methods:

ROSTER NOTIFICATION

One volunteer may be called upon to notify REACT by calling down the roster.

TELEWORKS NOTIFICATION

Certain members have clearance to notify members using the Flagler County Teleworks system. Requests can also be sent to the Emergency Management Division of Emergency Services.

NOAA WEATHER RADIO PROCEDURE

Watches and Warnings received with NOAA Weather Radio may initiate activation of REACT. See Skywarn Attachment for more details

RADIO NOTIFICATION

Call out of available resources may also be conducted by utilizing frequencies and channels designated in this plan. This would be in addition to other notification methods.

MOBILIZATION (SEE ATTACHMENT 3)

Mobilization of resources must be coordinated to allow for accountability and tracking. In joint operations, each organization shall track their resources in activation.

1. REACT mobilization response efforts should be coordinated as follows.
 - a) Establish NCS or place on stand by before mobilization.
 - b) Establish Post One if needed to accomplish REACT's mission in an event.
 - c) Members may be requested to respond to a staging area but should only go to that area if requested. Members must respond ONLY to the staging area unless directed otherwise by Post One or NCS.
 - d) REACT shall establish NCS and/or another means of tracking responding members.
 - e) Joint NCS operations may be established as needs require with other organizations.
2. Joint Coordination Operations. During joint mobilizations a joint operations Post One may be established to coordinate efforts. Post One must have access to all modes of communications being used in the event.
3. A staging Officer will check in all volunteers at the Staging Area and check them out at the conclusion of the event. The staging Officer may be any member designated by Post One.
 - a) The Staging Officer may assign assistant Staging Officers to assist with accounting of resources.
 - b) The Staging Coordinator may give out assignments as requested by the agency in charge of the event.
4. Mobile units will abide by all traffic laws. Yellow lights are authorized but only may be used when stationary or when providing traffic protection.
5. Mobile Units must at all time be accounted for. NCS or Post One must track mobile units.
 - a) Mobile Units will keep NCS or Post One updated on their status
 - b) Mobile units will advise if at any time they will be away from their radio or out of their vehicle.
 - c) Mobile Units and Portable Stations shall exercise safety at all times and will not perform any function that is above their scope of training.

OPERATIONS

REACT shall be responsible for our own operations and control, or cooperate in joint operations. Operations may include but are not limited to:

1. Support of Emergency Services operations including disasters, emergencies, requests for assistance, security and other miscellaneous tasks
2. Support of Law Enforcement activities including Search Operations, traffic control and other support
3. Support of a non-profit organization engaged in non-profit activities or emergency assistance.
4. Skywarn storm spotter communications.
5. Any other public service or emergency request or support function.

Nets (SEE ATTACHMENTS 2 & 3)

Radio Communications Nets are critical in operational functions. Each radio service has different protocols for nets, however the following is recommended:

1. All net procedures are outlined and described in Attachment Number One, which deals with all aspects of net operations and protocols.
2. Each net must operate within FCC requirements specified for the radio band in which they operate.
3. NCS will establish the appropriate net protocol and adjust as needed.
4. REACT members may participate in any other net needed to achieve the goals of the operation.
5. NCS and all net participants must be accountable for themselves and the location of units under their responsibility at all times.

COMMUNICATIONS PROTOCOL

1. During a Net, any unit or station encountering an *EMERGENCY* situation such as an accident or anything that would be called into 911 should call NCS in the following manor:

This is REACT ____ with an EMERGENCY.

NCS will then ask for all non emergency communications to cease and only units directly involved with the incident will communicate until the situation is resolved. This rule can also be applied to operating safety hazard events such as Helicopter Landing Zones.

2. Units or NCS will call each other in this manor. (REACT (their number) this is REACT (your number)
3. All specific direction, information or tasks given by one REACT unit to another via radio must be repeated in full to the originating station to insure it was understood correctly.
4. All assigned locations must be cross checked between the assigned REACT Unit and NCS to verify the correct information.

DESIGNATED FREQUENCIES

The following are designated frequencies in use by REACT Team 4800:

TAC 1	CB 9.	Emergency channel.
TAC 2	CB 22.	CB working channel.
TAC 3	FRS 6 462.6875	FRS working channel.
TAC 4	462.725	GMRS Simplex working channel.
TAC 5	145.470 (-600) PL 123	KG4IDD.Repeater.
TAC 6	146.520 Simplex	(Amateur 2 meter band) FCA REACT primary ham frequency.
TAC 7	147.300 (+600)	(Amateur 2 meter band) EOC Repeater
TAC 8	462.675 (+5.000) PL 141.3	GMRS Repeater frequency, [Designated GMRS Emergency Frequency] Covering Palm Coast & Northern Flagler County
TAC 9	462.550 (+5.000) PL 141.3	GMRS Repeater frequency, Covering Bunnell & South Flagler County
TAC 10	462.600 (+5.000) PL 156.7	GMRS Repeater frequently, Covering Flagler Beach & East Palm Coast

CHAIN OF COORDINATION

The following Chain of Coordination shall be followed to insure smooth operations during any activation, event or exercise.

Operations Officer

The Operations Officer is REACT's designated coordinator for events and operations. The Operations Officer may appoint other members to assist in carrying out a mission.

President

The Team President may coordinate certain aspects of Team operations in coordination with the Operations Officer or will appoint a coordinator or act as coordinator if the Operations Officer is not present.

Vice President

The Team Vice President may fill the role above if the President and Operations Officer are not available.

Members

Members will receive tasking from the Operations Officer, designated coordinator, or NCS. Certain members may be appointed by Team leadership to coordinate certain events.

DISASTERS

The primary goal of Flagler County Assist REACT is to provide assistance and logistical support as needs require during disasters. Primarily, efforts will be those requested by Flagler County Emergency Services Emergency Management Division but may include assistance requested by other agencies. This goal includes support such as back up communications, staffing, logistics, traffic control and security assistance as well as any other need achievable by the resources available in Flagler County Assist REACT.

PLANNING ASSUMPTIONS

During past disasters the following conditions have been observed in Flagler County

1. Insufficient number of volunteers to support all needs.
2. Communications resources stretched to the limit.
3. Normal communications resources may be impacted or destroyed.
4. GMRS and Amateur resources such as repeaters may be impacted.
5. Member's homes may be threatened or destroyed.
6. A level of risk may apply to volunteers who assist.
7. Situations change very rapidly; confusion likely to occur.
8. Electric power may be disrupted for long periods of time.
9. Radio traffic will increase.
10. Disaster may strike suddenly making activation difficult.

ACTIONS

All actions on the part of REACT Members must be coordinated and in concert with each other.

1. Activation procedures are outlined in this plan.
2. Preparedness actions to secure back up equipment should be conducted prior to the event if possible
3. During a disaster, REACT's primary mission is EOC internal support.
4. Personnel may be requested to assist at the following locations:
 - a. EOC functions
 - b. Shelters
 - c. Points in the field
 - d. Mobile support
 - e. Any other need requested
5. Members are not to release any specific information to the media and all media requests must be directed to the on duty Public Information Officer (PIO) of the agency that we are assisting.
 - a. Members may advise media that they are a member of REACT assisting with an operation, but under no circumstances are they to release any information or comment on any event within the scope of the operation.
 - b. All requests for information must be made to the PIO.
 - c. Be careful what is said over the radio as many people have scanners and can hear our transmissions. Personal opinions and comments should never be transmitted over the air at any time during an activation.

MUTUAL AID (SEE ATTACHMENT 8)

Mutual Aid requests must be carefully coordinated to insure that resources are not available locally and/or are not needlessly duplicated.

REQUESTING MUTUAL AID (SEE ATTACHMENT 8)

During any emergency, all requests for outside resources must be coordinated with the controlling agency before the request is sent out. Once approved, a mutual aid request can be made following the Standard Operating Procedure in attachment 7.

RESPONDING TO A MUTUAL AID REQUEST

REACT may be asked to assist a REACT team in another area through the State Emergency Plan of the Florida Council of REACT Teams.

PREPAREDNESS

All members shall strive to insure preparedness for emergencies and public events. This includes staying familiar with this Plan as well as checking the readiness of radios and other communications and support resources.

Plan Review Process

In March of each year, REACT Officers shall review this plan and attached Standard Operating Procedures (SOP's) to insure that they are up to date. REACT Officers shall recommend changes for adoption to the members.

Training and Drills

REACT shall be responsible developing our own training programs and accounting procedures to insure that these training sessions are tracked.

Every effort will be made to insure that all members have an equal opportunity to participate in any exercise or drill. Nonetheless, it is understood that there are constraints that will preclude the possibility that a member be able to participate. It is recommended that all members strive to participate in appropriate training, exercises and drills.

Correction of problems

After each event, exercise or activation, REACT shall de-brief members to determine what improvements can be made. During larger events that involve other groups, joint de-briefing sessions may be conducted.

Input from a controlling agency will be sought and taken into account during any debriefing session.

ATTACHMENT 1 – NOTIFICATION PROCEDURE

The following procedure applies to any activation or mobilization.

CALLING OUT REACT MEMBERS

Before Call Out

- ___ Determine the TAC Channel(s) that will be used
- ___ Determine who will be the NCS and/or Post One (if needed)
- ___ Weather event, type of watch or warning and when it expires.

Calling out

- ___ Double check the information above.
- ___ If this is a LEVEL 3 or higher activation, make sure NCS is ready BEFORE calling out.
- ___ If using Teleworks, insure that you activate the appropriate message.
- ___ If calling the roster, please be as quick as possible. When you call someone, if the phone rings more than 5 times, hang up and try later.
- ___ When making notification, use the following format:

- Level of response
- Expiration of any weather warnings or watches. BE SPECIFIC TO TYPE!
- What they are being asked to do and if they are available
- Staging area if applicable
- Have them check into NCS for more detailed info.

___ After your initial call out, report your results to the coordinator and then be prepared for a second call out if needed.

___ If using pagers or text message via the internet, use the following format. Remember to keep the message short.

LEVEL ___ Request all members to come up on TAC___ for_____

ATTACHMENT 2 -- NCS OPERATIONS

NET CONTROL OPERATOR PREPAREDNESS

NCS ACTIVATION

If NCS station is activated or placed on standby, the following checklist can be used as a guide to operations:

PRE-ACTIVATION, GENERAL (BEFORE ESTABLISHING NCS OR POST ONE)

- Check radio equipment and verify it is in working order
- Prepare a radio log or method of tracking members
- Develop sources of information (weather, scanner, etc)
- Coordinator in charge
- TAC Channel to be used
- LEVEL of response
- PROTOCOL of Net Operation (Open, Directed or Restricted)
- BROADCAST the LEVEL of response and any details (weather watch etc) if needed

WEATHER

- Type of watch, warning, expiration time
- Primary threats if it is a weather event
- Access to radar and NWS products
- Phone number to NWS Jacksonville 1-800-499-1594

MISSING PERSON

- Description of any persons we may be looking for.
- Any staging area to be used
- Point of Contact of the agency that we are assisting
- Any other specific instructions

EOC ACTIVATION

- What kind of help is needed
- What should members bring

NET CONTROL OPERATOR ACTIVATION

ACTIVATION

Please use the following checklist to activate and run a net:

- Double check the pre-activation checklist
- Prepare method of tracking
- Set up a back up NCS if available
- Activate net by the following announcement:

This is REACT _____ establishing NCS on this frequency. This net is operating under _____ mode for (type of event) All stations please check in at this time.

- Log each unit as it checks in
- Repeat NCS announcement
- Keep members updated on any changes

NET CONDITIONS

- OPEN – Free mode
- DIRECTED – Directed mode
- RESTRICTED – Restricted radio traffic
- EMERGENCY – Emergency Radio Transmissions Only

ATTACHMENT 3 -- MOBILE UNITS

MOBILE UNITS AND STATIONS IN NET

MOBILE UNITS

Mobile Unit response is a critical function in our operations. At all times our driving must adhere to all traffic laws unless given direct instruction by an Officer or Agency Representative. Further, all activity in your personal vehicle is covered by your own personal insurance.

PRE-ACTIVATION GENERAL – LEVEL 1 or 2 (BEFORE HEADING OUT)

- Obtain information on Staging Area or how that info will be obtained (via radio?)
- Know where you are going, check a map to insure that you know where you are going.
- Check portable radio
- Portable Flashlight
- Check your REACT vest.
- Be self sufficient. Bring your own water and snacks if possible
- Check your fuel and vehicle status

ACTIVATION – LEVEL 3, 4 or 5.

- Obtain information on Staging Area or how that info will be obtained (via radio?), if this has not been done as yet.
- Upon entering your vehicle check into NCS. If NCS is not operating as yet, announce your unit number.
- Drive in a safe manner to the assigned location or staging area
- Keep NCS updated on your status at all times. If you step out of your vehicle for any reason during an operation please notify NCS. Please also advise when back in your vehicle.
- NCS should be advised of any changes in your status. This includes arrival at staging or any other assigned location.
- Always check in with Staging Coordinator when arriving at a Staging Area.
- ALWAYS ADVISE NCS, POST ONE OR IF NOT AVAILBLE, ANOTHER UNIT WHEN YOU WILL BE OFF THE AIR FOR ANY AMOUNT OF TIME!!!!!!!!!!!!

STAGING COORDINATOR

- Advise NCS when the staging area is activated
- Track any REACT resources and supplies that are handed out
- Designate any local frequency to use instead of the primary repeater if needed.

OPERATIONS

- NCS Station will track all stations in the Net including mobile units
- Mobile Units will keep NCS updated on their activities
- Members performing Traffic Control must be wearing a safety vest.
- Return any items issued by the staging Coordinator.

DE-BRIEF

- At the close of the event, report back to the staging area. (Members may break free as long as NCS and Staging Coordinator are notified).
- The Coordinator in charge may debrief the event (preferred) or hold a debrief session at the next available meeting.

ATTACHMENT 4 – EOC AND DISASTER SUPPORT

EOC SUPPORT

GENERAL

Flagler County Assist REACT's primary mission is to provide internal support to the Emergency Operations Center during activations. Certain members may be on the EOC Response Team and trained by Emergency Services. During long term events 12 to 18 hour shifts may be implemented.

PRE-ACTIVATION – LEVEL 1 or 2

Steps to take when notified of a possible EOC support request

__Check your equipment such as

- Portable Radios
- Chargers
- Antennas, including spare Base antennas
- Back up power sources
- ID Cards
- Vehicle Readiness
- REACT hat, shirt and vest

IF THE EVENT MAY BE LONG TERM

- Change of clothing
- Extra batteries and chargers
- Extra comfort items
- Medicine etc
- Other items you may want away from home (as if you were camping out)

__Check your family Plan: What would happen if they needed to take action? Will you still be available to help at the EOC?

__Check any other supplies you may wish to bring.

ACTIVATION LEVEL 3, 4 or 5

During an activation

__Proceed safely to the EOC. An NCS station should be on the air with additional info

__Be sure to sign in upon your arrival. Notify NCS if on the air.

__Report to your designated area in the EOC

__Make sure you undergo a briefing to understand the situation and what is needed.

__Assist with any set up or assignments in the EOC.

__Brief any members who may come in to support or relieve you.

TASKING

The following are tasks that may be assigned in an EOC activation

- Communications support for either REACT or Government
- Message Control
- Status Updates
- Technical support
- Logistic support
- Assistance at shelters.
- Remember in an emergency it is possible that unusual tasks will be assigned.

DE-BRIEF

__At the close of the event you may be asked to debrief.

__The Coordinator in charge may debrief the event (preferred) or hold a debrief session at the next available meeting.

ATTACHMENT 5 – SKYWARN OPERATIONS

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

The National Weather Service may request Storm Spotter activation due to a severe weather threat. Watches and Warnings have automatic response levels attached to them so messages received may result in automatic activation. When any of the following are issued, please take the appropriate actions for the level of response. Also see NCS Operations Checklist.

WATCH (Tornado or Thunderstorm) – LEVEL 2 Alert

__ Determine type of watch and when it expires

__ Access sources of weather data if possible. Become aware of any storms that may impact area.

__ NCS or Coordinator may wish to broadcast WATCH Message including the type of watch and expiration.

EXAMPLE – Attention all stations this is REACT__ be advised that a _____ Watch is in effect until _____. This means we are at LEVEL 2 until _____. All stations please monitor local weather conditions and be prepared for activation.

__ NCS stations should review the NCS checklist to insure that all is ready

__ Continue to monitor the following products from the NWS.

- Hazardous Weather Outlook
- Forecast
- NEXRAD Radar
- NWS JAX Severe Weather Page

WARNING (All warnings effecting any part of Flagler County) – LEVEL 2 Alert or LEVEL 3 Activation.

__ Determine type of warning and when it expires

__ Access sources of weather data if possible. Become aware of any storms that may impact area.

__ Determine if Skywarn Net will be needed. This decision may be based on where the storm is, information from the NWS or EOC and what part of the County is warned. Some storms that are over sparsely populated areas or on the coast moving off shore may not warrant a Net.

__ If the Skywarn Net is activated, NCS or Coordinator should broadcast WARNING Message including the type of watch and expiration and designate a backup NCS.

__ A LEVEL 4 Skywarn Event may be declared if working a significant severe weather event.

__ LEVEL 5 Skywarn Event will only be used during a “Tornado Emergency” meaning that a large tornado is confirmed on the ground causing major damage. Further LEVEL 5 can be used for any severe weather event that causes major structural damage, injuries and loss of life.

EXAMPLE – Attention all stations this is REACT__ be advised that a _____ WARNING is in effect until _____. This means we are at LEVEL 3 until _____. All stations please check into Net Control at this time for Skywarn.

__ If the Skywarn Net is not activated, NCS or Coordinator may wish to broadcast WARNING Message including the type of watch and expiration.

EXAMPLE – Attention all stations this is REACT__ be advised that a _____ WARNING is in effect until _____. No net activation needed. This means we are at LEVEL 2 until _____. All stations please monitor local weather conditions and be prepared for activation.

__ PROMPTLY report the following to the National Weather Service in Jacksonville at 1-800-499-1594 Ext 1. Please report even if the condition observed dissipates.

- Tornadoes
- Funnel Clouds (even if it is dissipates)
- Any Wind damage
- Winds over 40 mph
- Hail of any size
- Major flooding (enough to impair traffic or threaten buildings)

ATTACHMENT 6 – FLAGLER COUNTY SKYWARN NET POLICY
[A joint policy statement governing Flagler County AREC and Skywarn Nets]

Skywarn is a nationwide program sponsored by the National Weather Service, a division of the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration. Flagler County Skywarn is part of that program through the auspices of the National Weather Service office in Jacksonville, FL. It is administered locally by Flagler County Emergency Services.

Both the Flagler County AREC and Flagler County Assist REACT Team 4800 communications organizations hold radio nets whenever threatening weather is in our area. Each organization has a designated Skywarn Coordinator. Jointly, they sponsor the [Flagler County Skywarn](#) web page. The purpose of this document is to set forth clearly and concisely a jointly endorsed policy for those nets establishing what information is to be broadcast over the nets, what information is to be solicited from participants in the nets, and what action is to be taken to ensure that information that goes out over the nets is accurate and reliable.

Many individuals in Flagler County own radio scanners and use those scanners to monitor Skywarn nets both on amateur radio and GMRS frequencies. Because our nets are part of the National Weather Service Skywarn Program it is of fundamental importance that all information broadcast over our nets be National Weather Service products or direct observations.

NWS Products To Be Read On Air

The text of the following NWS products for Flagler County will be read over the designated Skywarn net repeater:

1. Significant Weather Alerts
2. Tornado, Severe Thunderstorm, Tropical Cyclone and Tsunami watches
3. All warnings affecting any portion of Flagler County
4. Special Weather Statements

It is important to emphasize that ONLY the text products are to be used for our nets. Warning boxes posted by the NWS regional offices should be cues to look for updated text information for Flagler County. The only time that another source should be used is the failure of our ability to receive the alerts, watches, or warnings from the National Weather Service either by way of the internet, NOAA weather radio, or telephone.

There are two sources for updated information:

The NWS JAX Severe Weather Page: <http://www.srh.weather.gov/jax/severe.shtml>

And the Severe Weather Alert Box on Weather Watcher Program, a free program that can be downloaded using the Weather Watcher Setup link at:

<http://www.singerscreations.com/AboutWeatherWatcher.asp>

The NWS JAX Severe Weather page provides a color map which indicates whether there are products available for counties within their forecast area and counties adjacent to it. When a warning box appears on the radar map for a nearby county, Skywarn Net Control Operators can click on that county to see what the warning text states. If the warning involves severe weather that is headed toward Flagler County, it should be noted on air but the text of the statement should not be read.

NOTE: Some of the weather products that the National Weather Service issues will be storm based. This means that a warning may be issued for only a portion of the county or a city. In most cases we will still activate a countywide net but, it must be stressed that the warning is only for a portion of the county or a city.

Net Control Operator Responsibilities

In addition to reading the text of Significant Weather Alerts, Watches and Warnings, the Net Control Operator is responsible for insuring that information going out over the net is accurate and that it is either a direct observation or an official NWS product.

Whenever someone taking part states that something is occurring in her/his location, ascertain whether it is measured or estimated. If it is estimated, especially wind speed, ask how the estimate was made, i.e. what was observed. The Net Control Operator can use the guide below for estimating wind speed using visual clues. Hail size should be estimated using the attached guide for reporting hail size.

Whenever a station claims that a new product has been issued, ask the station to state where the product can be located. In the event it is not a product issued by NWS JAX that involves all or a portion of Flagler County, the Net Control Operator should make that clear by stating that the product is not an official NWS JAX product or that the product does not pertain to any part of Flagler County.

Reportable Observations

The Net Control Operator must be aware of what must be reported to NWS JAX. Those events must be reported immediately. However, during severe weather NWS JAX meteorologists are very busy and information that does not meet reportable criteria should only be called in if, in the judgement of the Net Control Operator, it would be helpful to NWS JAX.

Primary Skywarn Net Control Operators

Sam Carcione, Irene Pickering, Dave Garrett, Bob Pickering, Rob Creal, Jay Musikar, Howard Pepper, Merrill Musikar, Madeline Pepper

Adopted October 17, 2007: Bob Pickering, Flagler County Skywarn Administrator and President REACT; Merrill Musikar, AREC EC; Sam Carcione, REACT Skywarn Coordinator; and Robbie Creal, AREC Skywarn Coordinator.

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.

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.

Red indicates severe criteria

ATTACHMENT 7 – SAR OPERATIONS

SEARCH AND RESCUE (SAR)

MOBILE UNITS

Mobile Units are a critical function in our response to a SAR request. At all times our driving must adhere to all traffic laws unless given direct instruction by an Officer or Agency Representative. Further, all activity in your personal vehicle is covered by your own personal insurance.

PRE-ACTIVATION GENERAL – LEVEL 1 or 2 (BEFORE HEADING OUT)

- Check MOBILE RESPONSE CHECKLIST
- COORDINATOR insure that an NCS station is ready and has description, last known point etc.
- COORDINATOR designate a possible staging area in mind.
- NCS Station check NCS Checklist.
- Check weather

ACTIVATION – LEVEL 3 and above SAR

- COORDINATOR, activate NCS first. Make sure NCS has all information
- COORDINATOR determine Staging Area from agency requesting or designate a nearby location for staging.
- Upon entering your vehicle check into NCS. If NCS is not operating as yet announce your unit number.
- Drive in a safe manor to the assigned location or staging area DO NOT enter the SAR area unless asked to do so.
- Keep NCS updated on your status at all times. If you step out of your vehicle for any reason during an operation please notify NCS. Please also advise when back in your vehicle.
- NCS should be advised of any changes in your status. This includes arrival at staging or any other assigned location.
- Always check in with Staging Coordinator if arriving at a Staging Area.
- COORDINATOR make contact with Officer in Charge at scene.
- ALWAYS** ADVISE NCS, POST ONE OR IF NOT AVAILABLE, ANOTHER UNIT WHEN YOU WILL BE OFF THE AIR FOR ANY AMOUNT OF TIME!!!!!!!!!!!!

STAGING COORDINATOR

- Advise NCS when the staging area is activated
- Track any REACT resources and supplies that are handed out
- Designate any local frequency to use instead of the primary repeater if needed.

OPERATIONS

- NCS Station will maintain track of all stations in the Net including mobile units
- Mobile Units will keep NCS updated on their activities
- Members performing Traffic Control must be wearing a safety vest.
- Return any items issued by the staging Coordinator.
- DO NOT offer personal opinions on the air of what you think may have happened. This can cause confusion especially to anyone listening to us via a scanner.

DE-BRIEF

- At the close of the event report back to the staging area. (Members may break free as long as NCS and Coordinator are notified).
- The Coordinator in charge may debrief the event (preferred) or hold a debrief session at the next available meeting.

ATTACHMENT 8 – MUTUAL AID PROCEDURE

MUTUAL AID REQUESTS

MUTUAL AID

Mutual Aid requests are made when one group is out of resources and needs assistance from another group. Outside help should only be called upon as a last resort when no other help is available locally in Flagler County and may be requested from any group or agency capable of providing assistance.

GENERAL

These general guidelines shall apply to all Mutual Aid Requests or Responses

- When the request is received or when making a request, find out what exactly is needed.
- If working with Flagler EOC, all incoming requests must be approved and coordinated through the agency
- All requests must have a staging location, point of contact, frequency or phone number.

IF WE NEED HELP

If Flagler County Assist REACT needs additional help and all available local REACT resources are used, the following sequence should be followed:

- Check with ARES, FECA, FPCARC to see if they have sufficient help to cover communications needs
- Check with Fire Police and COP's to see if they have additional resources for a traffic control need.
- If all local resources are unable to assist, then contact Flagler EOC to see if an alternative is possible. If not, GET APPROVAL FROM THE EOC BEFORE CALLING FOR OUTSIDE HELP!!!
- If no other resources are available, make contact with the REACT State Council requesting assistance
- If REACT State Council is unable to be reached or is overwhelmed, contact State AREC resources.
- Designate a point of contact, frequency and a staging area for the incoming resources.
- Insure that we can provide accommodations for mutual aid if long term.

IF WE RECEIVE A REQUEST FOR HELP

The following are actions to be taken by our Coordinator:

- Determine exactly what is needed.
- Determine whether the request will cause Flagler County Assist REACT to be unable to help with an incident that may happen in Flagler County. Flagler County and local communities' needs come first.
- Determine a point of contact and location
- Designate a local staging area where our responders will gather
- All Members should be self sufficient as much as possible, providing their own food, drinks, supplies etc.
- Organize a convoy. All vehicles should operate at normal speeds and operate with headlights on.
- Upon arriving, proceed to the staging point and check in with the designated coordinator.
- We will operate at the direction of the agency or organization that we are assisting as long as that assistance is within the law and rules laid out by the FCC. Emergency Situations that require rule violation will be handled on a case by case basis.

ATTACHMENT 9 - DEFINITIONS

Emergency Management uses many abbreviations to describe functions and operations. This list was compiled to assist our membership.

Amateur Radio/Ham Radio, licensed radio service with numerous bands and frequencies.

ARC - American Red Cross.

ARES - Amateur Radio Emergency Service, amateur radio network sponsored by ARRL

ARRL - American Radio Relay League, amateur radio organization.

CB - Citizens Band radio, public access radio service, in the 27 Mhz band.

CERT – Citizens Emergency Response Team. This is a team made up of people in a neighborhood.

CEMP - Comprehensive Emergency Plan, the entire plan as drawn up by FCEM.

DAC - Disaster Application Center

DCAT - Disaster Communications Assistance Team.

DEM - Department of Emergency Management.

DOF - Division of Forestry.

EC - Emergency Coordinator.

EOC - Emergency Operations Center, coordination point.

ESATCOM - Emergency SATellite COMmunications network. Used by Florida to link all counties.

ESF - Emergency Support Function, part of Emergency Plans by FCEM

FCA - Flagler County Assist REACT.

FCES - Flagler County Emergency Services.

FCRT - Florida Council of REACT Teams.

FC SAR - Flagler County Search & Rescue.

FDLE - Florida Department of Law Enforcement.

FCSO - Flagler County Sheriff's Office

FHP - Florida Highway Patrol.

FNG - Florida National Guard.

GMRS - General Mobile Radio Service, UHF radio service.

HWO - Hazardous Weather Outlook.

ICS – Incident Command System.

NCS - Net Control Station.

NHC - National Hurricane Center.

NWS - National Weather Service.

PL TONE - Private Line Tone, used on GMRS, VHF. Sub audible tone to access repeater systems, etc.

PIO - Public Information Officer, handles the press & media.

PX - Phone.

RACES - Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service, FCEM controlled amateur net.

R&B - Flagler County Road & Bridge

REACT - Radio Emergency Associated Communications Team, multi mode communications group.

Repeater - Device that automatically relays radio signals. Used on towers, to extend radio range.

RIAT - Rapid Impact Assessment Team. Operated by the Florida National Guard.

RX - Receive, a radio term, when your radio is in received mode.

SAR - Search & Rescue.

SERT - State Emergency Response Team.

Simplex - direct radio communications, without a repeater.

SKYWARN - Storm spotter network, sponsored by the National Weather Service.

SOU – 1 Flagler County Special Operations Unit 1 mobile command and support vehicle.

TAC - TACTical Channel.

TX - Transmit, another radio term, when you are transmitting.

WFO – Weather Forecast Officer (National Weather Service)

WX – Weather.

ATTACHMENT 4A – REACT WILDFIRE RESPONSE TEAM

The REACT Wildfire Response Team (RWRT) is a group of REACT members who are general available during the weekday when volunteers are usually least available. The purpose of the RWRT is to provide a core group of members who would most likely be available during a Wildfire Emergency. Other members who are not part of the RWRT will be able and are also encouraged to respond to any request.

Wildfire Emergency – is defined as a fast moving large scale wildfire that has immediate threat to a populated part of Flagler County.

Levels of Response: REACT Response Levels (0-5) will also apply to the RWRT deployments. Recommended preparedness actions can be found in the ATTACHMENT 4 of the REACT Emergency Plan.

Activation Procedure Requested by EOC: Notification may be made by telephone, teleworks or radio Upon notification of activation (LEVEL 3 and above) the RWRT members will respond to the EOC unless another location has been designated.

Self Activation: If a large scale wildfire is rapidly affecting populated areas of Flagler County and there is no response or any contact possible from the EOC RWRT members may self deploy to the EOC. If at all possible attempt to contact a Team leader first. If multiple members are available the closest to the EOC should respond to the EOC to verify if help is needed.

Upon Reaching the EOC: Members should sign in and contact the person who requested assistance. As soon as possible a RWRT member should activate the radio in the EOC to establish communications with other responding members and if needed transfer the NCS to the EOC location. If more urgent tasks are at hand the Response NCS can remain as is until no longer needed.

Possible Assignments: RWRT members may be requested to assist in icing down coolers for firefighters, assist answering phones, help FireFlight. Transport supplies or food to fire scenes or assist in the EOC. There may be un conventional assignments tasked out.

Roles: The following roles are established by the RWRT

Team Leader – Coordinates the RWRT at the EOC or scene

Response NCS – Activates a Net during the initial activation and holds the NCS until all members reach the EOC and a replacement NCS can be activated at the EOC if needed.

Field Coordinator – Can be deployed to a field location as an additional coordinator if needed.

RWRT Members:

REACT 26 Team Leader

REACT 36 Team Leader

REACT 5 – Response NCS

REACT 4

REACT 9

REACT 13

REACT 21

REACT 28

REACT 33

REACT 34 – Field Coordinator