



Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES®) Garland, Texas



Severe Weather Procedure

Effective 05.2017

This severe weather procedure* defines Garland Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) coordination with the Office of Emergency Management (OEM) Severe Weather SOP E-2 and Severe Weather Checklist. This procedure covers the operational actions for Garland RACES during Thunderstorms, Flooding, Tornado, Snow or Ice conditions.

Garland RACES is activated by the National Weather Service (NWS), City of Garland (COG), Emergency Management Coordinator (EMC), Office of Emergency Management (OEM), Duty Officer or the City Manager. RACES role is to provide emergency back-up or secondary communications. RACES is governed by FCC federal rules and regulations.

Activation will follow the Garland Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service Activation Procedure¹.

Normal Conditions

RACES appointees should maintain a situational awareness of weather conditions on a daily basis. Monitor radio and television forecasts and radar, weather emails and twitter alerts.

Pre Response Phase (Watch/Warning Condition)¹

1. If a Watch Condition Exists –
 - RACES OEM Support Team (OST)² Assistant Radio Officer (ARO) shall maintain a contact with OEM and monitor for severe weather situations in Garland and surrounding counties by monitoring local TV/Radio reports, active SkyWarn Nets, weather emails and/or NOAA weather radio.
2. If a Warning Condition Exists –
 - RACES OST members will prepare for possible deployment to the Emergency Operations Center (EOC).
 - RACES appointees' alerted³ to stand-by for possible SkyWarn or Severe Weather activation.

Response Phase (Warning or Greater Condition)¹

1. SkyWarn Activation Requested by National Weather Service –
 - At NWS SkyWarn activation request, City of Dallas RACES sends out alert to all Dallas Area RACES Radio Officers and Net Controls. All Dallas Area SkyWarn weather reporting traffic on 146.880- PL 110.9
 - Garland OEM Duty Officer notified of SkyWarn activation. (972-781-7222)
 - Garland RACES activates for Dallas Area SkyWarn operations. Net Control alerts³ Garland RACES
 - During a Dallas Area SkyWarn activation, RACES OST on standby for deployment to the EOC radio console
 - Garland RACES SkyWarn members deploy to their pre-selected observation locations, monitor weather conditions⁴ and the active SkyWarn Net. Report as required per net reporting criteria⁴.
 - If Garland OEM determines an immediate threat or impact to City of Garland, radio operations move to 146.660- PL 110.9 to better monitor local conditions. Net Control will assign a liaison to 146.880- PL 110.9 as well as issuing a request for **all** spotters to deploy to their spotting location.
2. Severe Weather activation by City of Garland. (Use notification phase of Activation procedure)¹
 - Tactical Net⁵ activated on Garland primary repeater and Severe Weather net begins operations. During Severe Weather Net, RACES members deploy to their pre-selected observation locations, if not, await instructions
 - RACES OST team activates the OEM RACES radio console. Maintain contact with the Fort Worth NWS. (NWS may only monitor the Dallas RACES repeater for weather updates and intake)
 - Continue communications assistance until deactivated.

Post Response Phase (return to Routine Condition)¹

1. EOC notifies Team Leader to deactivate. Severe Weather/SkyWarn operations closed.
2. Team Leader notifies net control to deactivate all operations and demobilize. All units report to staging or stand down and deactivate as directed. All deactivated units return to Normal Conditions
3. Team Leader compiles and documents incident operations for Emergency Management.

NOTE: * These are general guidelines for which there may be deviations due to unusual or changing circumstances.

Reference: ¹ Activation Procedure - ² EOC support Team - ³ Alert Methods document - ⁴ Cloud Cowboy Reference Manual - ⁵ Response Frequency Plan