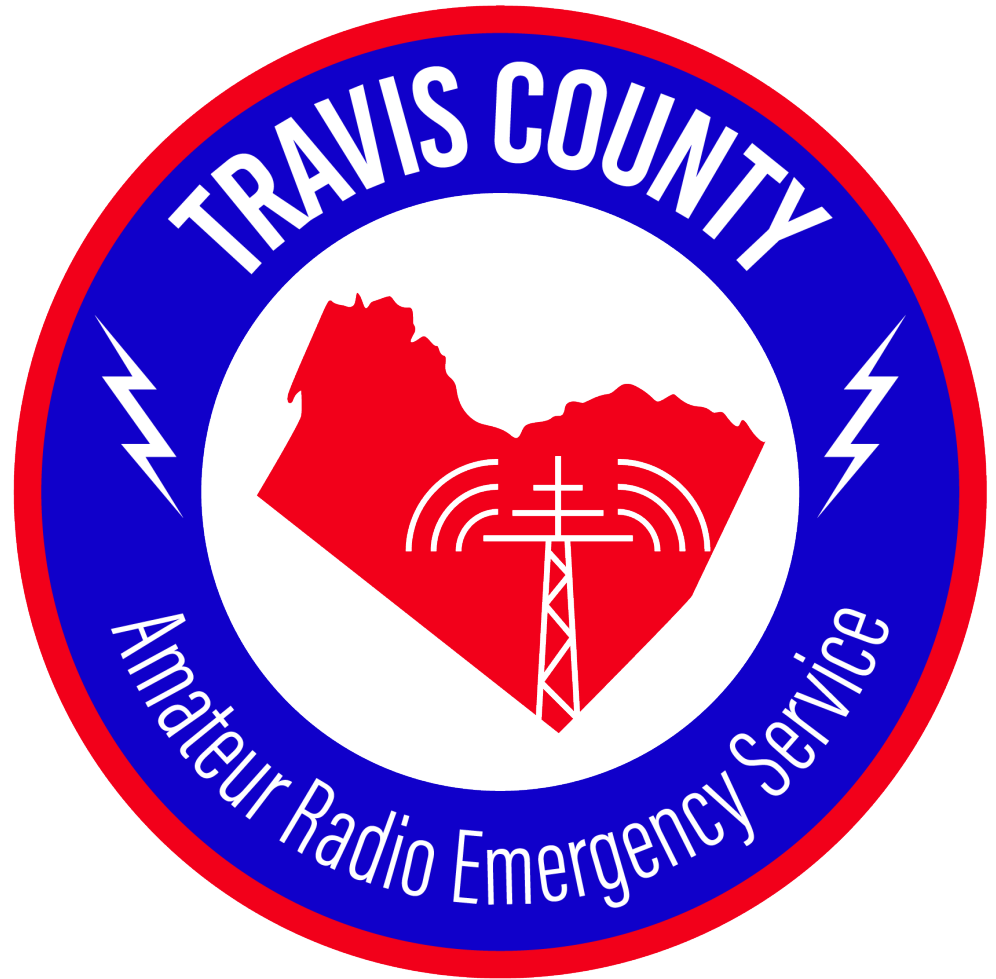
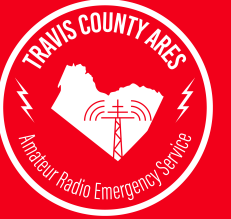


SKYWARN Weather (WX) NETS

Glenn Meter
W5MTR
Emergency Coordinator
Travis County ARES
3/25/2025

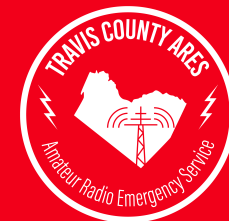


WHY



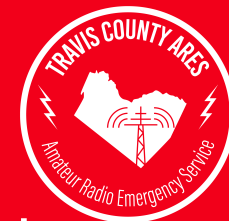
- Provide “ground truth” to National Weather Service (NWS)
 - Radar sees what’s in the sky. Cannot see below radar horizon (curve of the earth).
- Keep people safe:
 - Warn of dangers: NWS + mobile & fixed ops
- After-storm reports:
 - Hail reports used by insurance companies to approve claims, etc.

WHEN



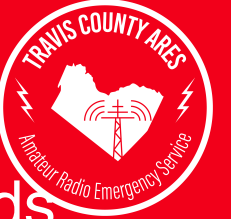
- Triggered by NWS:
 - Severe Weather Watch -> Stand-by net
 - Severe Weather Warning -> Directed net
- How to get notified:
 - Weather Alert Radios
 - Specific Area Message Encoding (SAME code) to limit warning area
 - WarnCentralTexas.org:
 - Texts, e-mails, phone calls
 - TCARES Discord

HOW



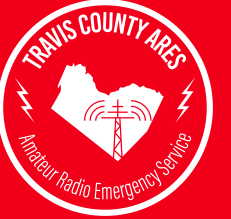
- SKYWARN Nets: 146.94 MHz Repeater
 - “Priority” prosign used to take control
- SKYWARN Net Control
 - Runs net, takes reports
 - Script: <https://tcares.org/nets/weather-net/>
- SKYWARN Backup
 - Cover for NC as needed
 - Submit reports to NWS
 - If have NWS Chat credentials -> Slack
 - No credentials -> phone or X (Twitter)

HOW: Reports



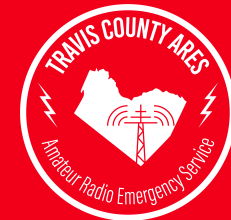
- What:
 - Tornadoes, funnel clouds, wall clouds
 - Hail (Start: any size. Mid-storm: may be asked to limit reports.)
 - Wind gusts > 50mph
 - Flooding
 - Streams & rivers out of banks
 - Impassable roads
 - Rain: 1"+ in gauge, or more than 1"/hour
 - Structural damage
 - Downed trees, branches, power lines

HOW: Reports



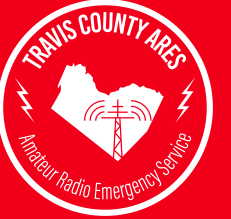
- Report
 - When: time observed
 - May be gap between observation and report
 - Where
 - City: cross-streets
 - Country: nearest town
 - What
 - What you witnessed

HOW: SAFETY



- SKYWARN: Spotters, not Chasers
 - Capture reports from a safe location
- Lightning
 - Many disconnect antennas
 - Reports can be made to NWS via phone or X (Twitter).
 - Some use backup systems (inside antennas)
- Family first:
 - Take care of your severe WX prep before joining net

Importanc e



- Provides critical information to NWS
 - Radars keep getting better, but still can't see what's on the ground
 - NWS thrives on Spotter reports
- Visibility
 - Local media, emergency managers, etc. on NWS Chat

