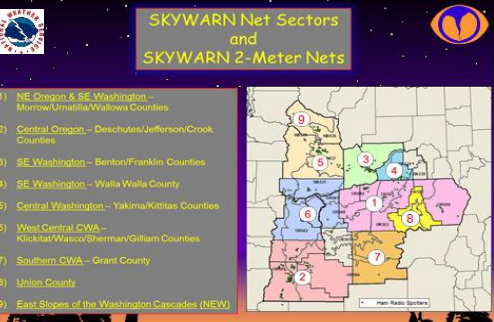


Ham Radio and Weather Seminars

National Weather Service in Pendleton Oregon now has nine Skywarn net sectors in its county warning area. A weather and ham radio seminar was conducted in each sector within one year.



THE GOAL

To enhance cooperation and coordination while providing ham radio operators with a basic understanding of severe weather reporting criteria. This included identifying and reporting tornadoes, hail, downbursts, flooding, dust storms, hazardous spills, fire and winter weather, and taking safety precautions while storm spotting. The ham radio portion covered Skywarn two meter nets and how to activate a net. The last section involved Net Control Operator responsibilities, reporting criteria, and effective communication with the NWS using PDT-HAM-CHAT. The seminars were successful having trained over 80 ham radio operators and emergency managers, recruited over 30 Net Control Operators while adding 3 new sectors.

Forecasters, HMT's, Interns, Hydrologists, now have the ability to communicate with Ham Radio Net Control Operators in a chat room without the need to be certified to operate a ham radio

- Increase weather warning lead times
- Improve verification
- Reduce warning false alarms
- Be more situational aware
- In support of a Weather Ready Nation!

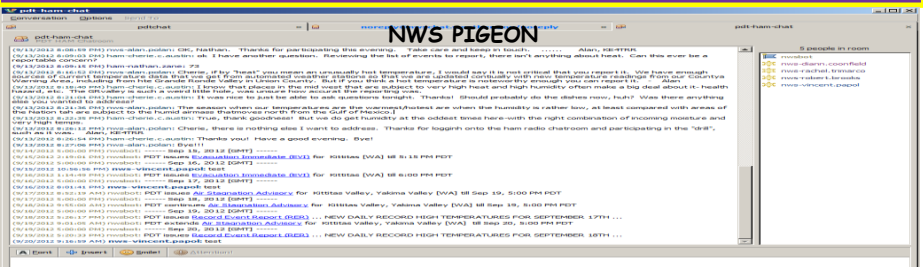
Event Example

- January 18, 2012
- Major Winter Weather Event in WFO PDT CWA
- Activated Skywarn Net for 6 Sectors
- 100% Verified
- Received 64 reports in the chat room

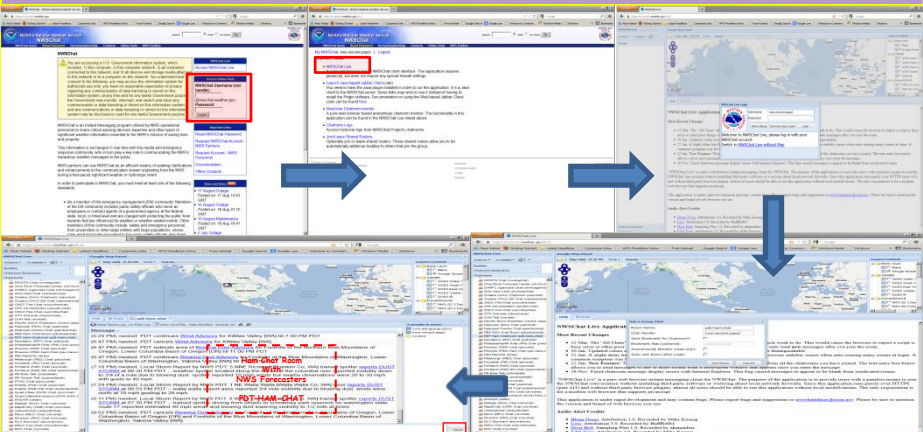
PDT - HAM - CHAT Room Development

National Weather Association; Annual Meeting 2012; Madison, WI

The development of a chat room was specifically designed for Amateur Ham Radio Net Control Operators to communicate with all National Weather Forecasters during significant impacting events. Net Control Operators could relay severe weather reports through a ham chat room to any Forecaster without them being certified to operate a ham radio.



<https://nwschat.weather.gov/>



HAM RADIO OPERATORS

in partnership with

National Weather Service Pendleton, Oregon

Protect Life and Property
Promote Nations Welfare and Economy
Weather Ready Nation

Skywarn Net and NWS CHAT PDT-HAM-CHAT

During times of severe or significant impacting weather, the National Weather Service in Pendleton will activate a Skywarn Net for a specific sector. Amateur Radio Net Control Operators in that sector will monitor a ham radio and when a severe weather report is received, they can post the report in the chat room instantaneously. Any Forecaster can receive the information and communicate with the Net Control Operator without being certified to operate a ham radio.

The reports could include the size of hail, gusty wind, property damage, and where the event occurred. The reports can provide forecasters the opportunity to issue a severe weather warning with greater lead time to the public and also aid in verifying warnings.

Vincent Papol

Leadership Focal Point/Team Leader
Storm Spotter/Ham Radio Team Leader
Senior Meteorologist
WFO Pendleton, Oregon

