

Methods available to submit reports to NWS Columbia

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For Spotters who are licensed amateur radio operators

Zello – Channel “SC Midlands SKYWARN” (available to hams and non-hams)

Have a Key Net Control enter your report (Time, Event, Location) into NWS Chat 2.0, Photos are encouraged.

FleetTalk linked repeater system, or designated Skywarn Repeaters (See next page)

Have a Key Net Control enter your report (Time, Event, & Location) into NWS Chat 2.0, Add photos via Zello, Facebook, X

For any trained Spotter (no amateur radio license required)

Zello – Channel “SC Midlands SKYWARN” (available to hams and non-hams)

Have a Key Net Control enter your report (Time, Event, & Location) into NWS Chat 2.0, Photos are encouraged.

Facebook – NWS Columbia SKYWARN (Private group)

After Basic Spotter training, you can be added to this group

Enter your own report (Time, Event, Location) on this Facebook page. Photos are encouraged.

<https://www.facebook.com/share/g/1HfwZwNGeF/>

(Trained Spotters ONLY) NWS Unlisted phone number – 803 822 8037 - **if it's urgent**

Not to be confused with this other Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/NWSColumbia>

This Facebook page is an excellent reference. However, it

IS NOT where you should enter Spotter weather reports.

US National Weather Service Columbia, South Carolina

Available to anyone, including Spotters and members of the public

‘X’ <https://x.com/NWSColumbia> @NWSColumbia (Requires a Twitter/X account) Photos are encouraged.

Enter your own report (Time, Event, & Location) in ‘X’ Photos are encouraged.

Storm Report Interface <https://inws.ncep.noaa.gov/report/> -Available to anyone

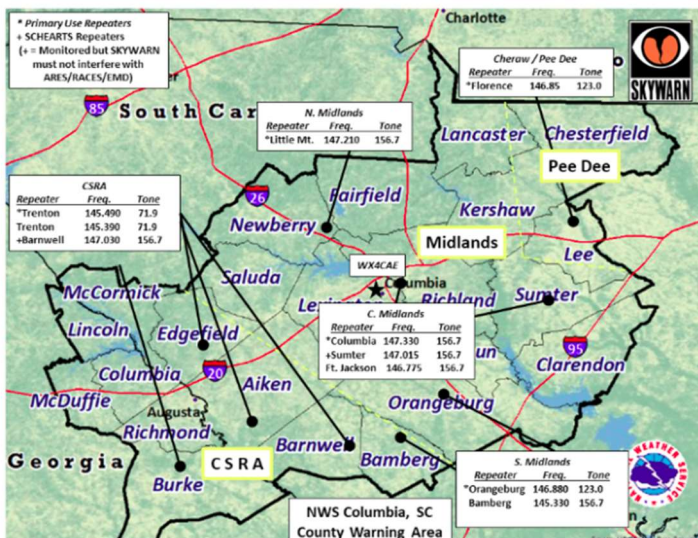
(Available, but slower) Phone NWS public number and inform them of the Time, Event, & Location [\(803\) 822-8135](tel:8038228135) (Respond to the menu)

(Available, but slower) Email NWS - Send an Email including (Time, event, & Location) to NWS.Columbia@NOAA.gov

NWS Columbia's County Warning Area (CWA) & Amateur Radio Network

NWS Columbia utilizes the 2-Meter amateur radio network across Central SC and the CSRA to obtain severe weather reports. When a significant severe weather outbreak is anticipated, NWS meteorologists will ask for Net Control Stations to SKYWARN radio nets in areas threatened by severe weather. We may also call Amateur Radio Operators into our office to collect reports from the area nets, or establish one as well. The Call Sign for the NWS Columbia Office during an organized radio net is **WX4CAE**. When calling net control, simply call **Columbia SKYWARN**. It is not the intent of the net to provide the latest conditions and forecasts. The purpose of the net is to receive reports, not give them out. During an active weather net, the operator may monitor the following repeaters:

- 147.210 MHz - Little Mountain Repeater
- 145.490 MHz - Trenton Repeater
- 147.105 MHz - Bishopville Repeater
- 147.015 MHz - Sumter Repeater
- 145.450 MHz - Savannah River Site (CSRA Backup)



Midlands counties:

- Lancaster
- Newberry
- Fairfield
- Kershaw
- Saluda
- Lexington
- Richland
- Sumter
- Calhoun
- Orangeburg
- Clarendon

Pee Dee counties:

- Chesterfield
- Lee

We have a PACE plan for taking weather reports and relaying them to the National Weather Service.

P – Primary – Zello “SC Midlands Skywarn” channel – as described on Page 1.

A – Alternate – FleetTalk – via the linked repeater system by radio, or alternatively by Echolink or AllStar – as described on Page 1. See Page 3 for details about FleetTalk.

C – Contingency – Designated Skywarn repeaters, per the NWS sketch, attached, with some caveats

N. Midlands

Little Mountain – 147.210 (+) PL 156.7 (Shared with Newberry and Fairfield ARES)

C. Midlands

Columbia – 147.360 (+) PL 100.0 – Instead of 147.330 (Richland ARES Tactical Frequency)
 Sumter – 145.430 (-) PL156.7 – Instead of 147.015 (SC Heart repeater)

S. Midlands

Orangeburg – Vance 2M 146.805 (-) PL 156.7 – instead of 146.880 (SC Heart Repeater)
 Vance GMRS 462.600 (+) PL 156.7
 Nesses GMRS 462.575 (+) PL 156.7

Pee Dee

Florence – 146.850 (-) PL 123.0
 Pageland FleetTalk Repeater
 Sumter FleetTalk Repeater

We expect that Zello, FleetTalk, and the Skywarn designated repeaters listed above will provide sufficient capability to monitor the weather and relay weather reports to NWS. Should all those fail, we could rely on HF. Of course, not everyone has HF capability, so that would not be optimal.

E – Emergency

HF – 3.990 (+/-) LSB, 7.232 (+/-) LSB per the SC ARES/RACES Tactical Guide

FleetTalk <https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=w4ftk-fleettalk%20amateur%20radio%20group>

The repeaters we most often use in the Midlands are:

147.225 PL 110.9 - Rock Hill

146.760 DPL 315 - Richburg

146.625 DPL 315 - Little Mountain

441.825 DPL 315 - Pageland

443.650 DPL 315 – Blythewood – The repeater has a huge footprint/reach. Most everyone can communicate using the Blythewood repeater.

442.875 DPL 315 - Downtown Columbia

443.300 DPL 315 – Sumter

146.070 DPL 315 – Wedgefield

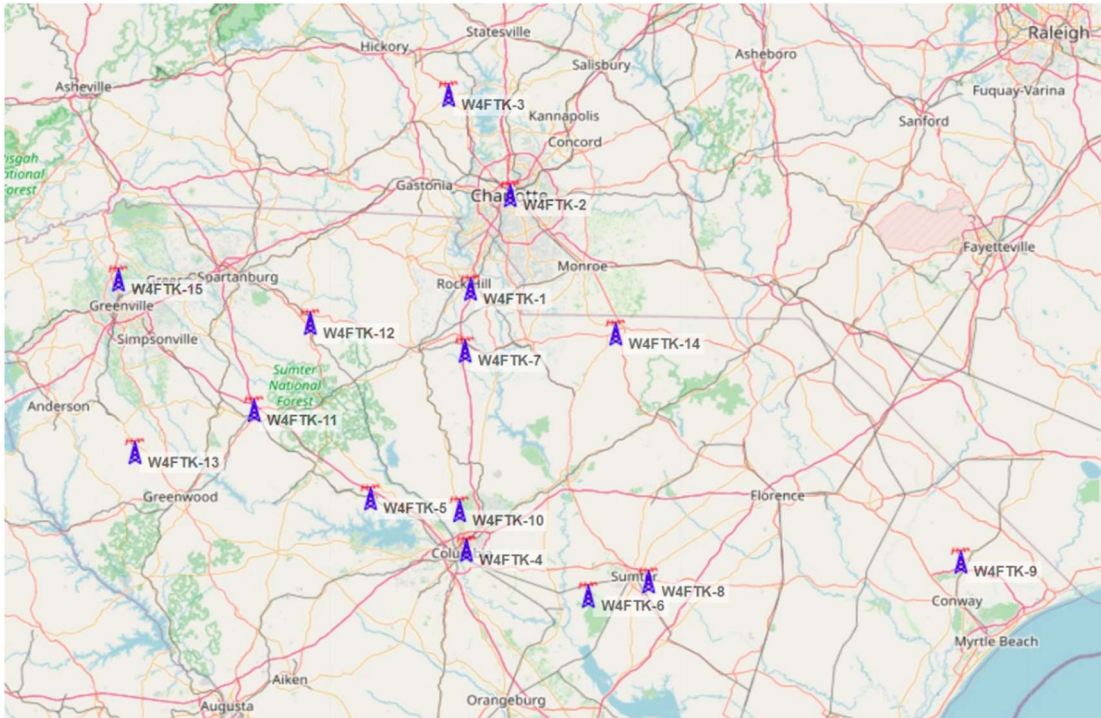
If you are in a location that cannot reach any of these repeaters, other options are available are the Echolink app and AllStar.

W4FTK-R (Node # 367365)

Allstar Node 40040

<https://w4ftk.home.blog/>

AllStar Node 40040 & EchoLink W4FTK-R



A Multi-Site, Analog FM, VHF/UHF linked Amateur Radio repeater system covering a large portion of the Carolinas. Stay tuned here for system updates!