

September 20, 2020 WC-ARES Net Training: Weather Apps and Situational Awareness

Presented by Jason Korb, KI5ABB

Texas is always an interesting state when thinking about the weather. Our state is large and diverse, we can have earthquakes, fires, floods, hurricanes, tornados, sever weather and snow...*and all on the same day*. So, we need to stay situationally aware of the weather all the time. There are several ways to do this with varying degrees for information.

There are several weather apps on available for cell phone use and or computer setups. Cost varies from app to app.

AccuWeather

AccuWeather Weather alerts & live forecast radar provides a daily snapshot of vital stats and detailed live radar maps. Access hyper-localized mapping layers, including our temperature contour map, and live tropical storm radar. AccuWeather has a free version available for iOS, Android and desktop as well as paid subscriptions for even more features.

Dark Sky Weather

Dark Sky offers hyperlocal weather information and is available for purchase from Apple App Store. Apple has bought Dark Sky so some of this data is beginning to be included in the iPhone's weather app.

Emergency: Alerts American Red Cross

Monitor the people and places you care about with real-time local alerts for severe weather and hazards, including earthquakes, tornadoes, hurricanes, flood, tsunamis, winter storms, thunderstorms, extreme heat, and wildfire and many more. Is a free iOS and Android app that does more than track the weather for you.

NOAA Weather Radar Live

Is another free cell phone app available for iOS and Android devices, with in-app purchases available. Real-time animated weather radar images on a highly interactive map enhanced with severe weather warnings provide accurate weather forecasts.

MyRadar

For the casual weather enthusiast to the seasoned weather professional, we have hi-definition radar, as well as NOAA weather alerts, temperatures, forecasts, and a detailed hurricane tracker; you can even share your own weather photos. <https://myradar.com/>

RadarScope

Comes in both app and software formats for both Apple and Android apps and Mac, Windows software. It allows you view NEXRAD Level 3 and Super-Resolution radar data along with Tornado, Severe Thunderstorm, Flash Flood and Special Marine Warnings, and predicted storm tracks issued by the U.S. National Weather Service Available in 3 different tiers and price points for each platform. <https://www.radarscope.app/>

GRLevel3 Version 2

GRLevel3 Version 2 is a Windows viewer for live and archive NEXRAD Level III data. It displays high resolution base products, dual polarization products, and derived products along with Local Storm Reports and severe weather warnings. *This is free to try for 21 days and \$80 to purchase thereafter.* http://www.grlevelx.com/grlevel3_2/

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Presented by Gaye Lynn Bailey, KF5PWN

The Weather Channel

The Weather Channel's free, ad-supported weather app is available on Android and iOS. The TWC app provides you with a wealth of meteorological data such as temperature, wind and visibility on an hourly or daily basis, with an extended 10-day forecast available. Interactive maps can display the latest Doppler radar data to show rainfall and weather events and severe weather alerts.

OSHA-NIOSH Heat Safety Tool

This is a free app to keep you up with the heat index...this is Texas...we need this app in the winter sometimes.

The list above is only a small sampling of what is available for us to use in staying situationally aware of the weather around us. Please take the time and look for an app or apps to use on your cellphones to help keep you and your love ones safe.

Just to add a Note

Podcasts are a great source for free information on amateur radio. From news, DIY tips and general education, there is a lot of information available out there for free. One podcast to follow is the ARRL Audio News. This podcast is released each Friday and is about 10-15 minutes in length. You can quickly hear the latest news from the world of amateur radio and possibly learn new ways to explore the air waves or get involved.

Another noteworthy Podcast is ARRL's On The Air. This is a companion podcast to the On The Air Magazine and provides some tips and educational information for new HAMs.

Apps and podcasts can be a great addition to our radio experience and help keep us up to date and aware.

And that concludes tonight's training. This is KI5ABB, back to net control.