

## Attention Amateur Radio Operators

Peoria Area Amateur Radio Operators,

The 2009 severe weather season is nearly upon us and this year an exciting change is being made to the Central Illinois All Hazards Net. Effective immediately this net is changing the primary frequency to the W9UVI 147.075 MHz repeater.

With the recent enhancements of the W9UVI 147.075 MHz repeater, the decision was made to take advantage of the improved coverage area when compared to the K9PEO 146.850 MHz repeater. The W9UVI 147.075 MHz repeater has recently had new feed line, antenna and maintenance. The Peoria Area Amateur Radio Club is also in the process of installing a battery backup solution allowing the repeater to remain operational in the event of a power failure. The K9PEO 146.850 MHz repeater will now be the backup if the W9UVI 147.075 MHz would be unavailable.

This change will greatly benefit the citizens in our communities by allowing us to get more real-time weather information from the amateurs in the field. The net control station maintains a direct link to the National Weather Service in Lincoln, IL allowing information to be immediately relayed to the meteorologists coordinating warning decisions. The amateurs in the field will also have more reliable communications with the Emergency Operations Center who is helping watch and track their safety while in the field.

Severe weather net operations are open to all licensed amateurs. We strongly encourage each person to receive official training from the National Weather Service. Training is provided by the National Weather Service annually. A list of scheduled training events can be found on their website <http://www.weather.gov/ilx/> by clicking on the "Spotter Talks" located in the menu on the left.

This important information is being sent to all amateurs in the tri-county area to make everyone aware of the changes taking place. Even though many of you do not reside in Peoria proper many of you work at and patronize local businesses. Our team wants you to be aware of the local emergency operations so you can be prepared to participate when the need arises. The citizens of central Illinois benefit greatly from our services during severe weather and other emergency operations.

Included with this mailing is a guide to the local severe weather nets in the area. The Central Illinois All Hazards net is primarily used for severe weather but is intended for any emergency need in the area. The net does not activate solely based on a severe thunderstorm or tornado watch being issued. The team at the EOC will monitor the local and approaching weather conditions and activate the net when severe weather approaches the area. You do not have to be in the City of Peoria to participate in the net – we will gladly take reports from any location and pass information on to local Emergency Management officials and the National Weather Service.

The Emergency Communications Response Team looks forward to working with you during this severe weather season. If you are interested in net control operations or learning more about the activities of the ECRT please visit our website [www.ecrt.org](http://www.ecrt.org) or contact Steve Lehmann N9MSF Team Lead (309) 251-7716 for meeting times, location and more information.

### **Steve Lehmann N9MSF**

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