



KB2BWV/R 443.525 +5000Khz PL Tone: 114.8 Hz East Meadow, NY

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The longstanding policy of Nassau County ARES is to prioritize safety. We have therefore established this set of policies and procedures to follow in the event of a thunderstorm, to which all members must adhere at all times, regardless of whether you are deployed during an emergency, at a public service event, participating in a drill or during casual operation; this is equally applicable whether operating from your home or other base station, from a vehicle, or using “field antennas”.

At the **FIRST** sound of thunder, you are to inform Net Control (if there is one) that you will be going off the air until further notice, and you are to **CEASE OPERATIONS AND POWER DOWN YOUR EQUIPMENT IMMEDIATELY**. **There are NO EXCEPTIONS TO THIS RULE!**

After having powered down your equipment, disconnect the antenna feed line from your radio; disconnect the power source as well.

If you are at a base station, locate the antenna feed line away from your station. If possible, toss it out the window for the time being.

If you are operating from a vehicle with a mag-mount antenna, you ought to remove it from the roof and toss it in the back seat, if possible; if you are using a field antenna, after disconnecting the feed line from your radio, you would do well to lower the antenna and lay it on the ground as long as you can safely do so. The goal here is to avoid having a lightning rod sticking up in the air, and to avoid having you blasted into oblivion.

The last place you want to be is standing out in an open field or under a tree during a thunderstorm, with an umbrella sticking up as a lightning rod. Seek shelter!

While you may seek shelter in your vehicle, it is far better to seek shelter inside a building. If lightning strikes your vehicle, do not attempt to exit, and avoid touching any metal parts of the vehicle, as they may hold a charge for a considerable time; this same rule applies if a power line falls across your vehicle. Using any means available, whether by h/t or cellphone, call for help.

Thirty minutes after the last sound of thunder, you may resume operations as long as it is safe to do so. Keep in mind that a thunderstorm many miles away can still produce enough static charge to fry the front end of your radio.