TO: ALL WOOD COUNTY EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS AMATEURS ALL NON-WOOD COUNTY EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS AMATEURS FROM: KEN HARRIS WA8LLM WOOD COUNTY EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS INCORPORATED

WOOD COUNTY BULLETIN NR 24.13 DATE: March 31, 2024 SUBJECT: READY FOR WIND AND LIGHTNING?

With Spring just getting here, is your tower and antennas ready for the storms that will be coming? Even though Winter hasn't been that rough, it's still hard on those items that are exposed to the outside environment.

Heavy snow and freezing rain may have hung onto the elements of an antenna, tower guy wires, or coax. These things can be broken or loosened to the point where they will have more damage to them when the Spring and Summer storms arrive.

How about your grounding system. Is the wire making a good connection to the ground rod? A loose connection can give you a false sense of security from lightning and can cause noise on your radio equipment. While the temperature is not below freezing, make a trip outside and look over your tower and antenna system for hanging items or loose connections.

By the time Spring and Summer storms get here, you'll be too busy doing other jobs that need done, but it will be too late to fix the coax or what the wind and weather has done to your station during the winter.

Ken Harris WA8LLM WCEC Wood County