



ARES District 14

Emergency Communications Plan

Part 2

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District 14 Emergency Communications Plan Operations



- All written messages for NTS must be in standard ARRL format using the approved ARRL transmission and receipt protocol and message forms. See <http://www.arrl.org/FieldES/field/nts-mpg/> for information on NTS and ARRL forms, formats and procedures
- Formal messages within the ICS must be on the ICS 213 message form.
- All messages must include the signature and title of the official originating the message.
- Before sending:
 - Check to ensure message can be understood
 - Check to see if message could be misunderstood
 - Never change the text of a message without written permission of the person that drafted the message
- Amateur Radio is NOT a secure mode of transmission.



District 14 Emergency Communications Plan Operations



- Message precedence, as defined in ARRL FSD-3, are to be used at all times
 - Emergency (Always write out entire word)
 - Priority (P)
 - Welfare (W)
 - Routine (R)
- ARRL FSD-3 included as an attachment to slides on website
- Stations should not transmit unless directed to do so by the net control station.
- All traffic goes through Net Control



District 14 Emergency Communications Plan Operations



- Stations may break into the net with the pro-words
 - “Re-check”
 - “Info”
 - “Relay” or
 - Give your call sign as appropriate
- Break with emergency traffic by saying
 - “Emergency Traffic”,
 - “Break - Break”,
 - Your Call sign and “Emergency Traffic” is preferred
- Use the word “Break” only for emergency traffic



District 14 Emergency Communications Plan

Drills and Alerts



- ARRL Simulated Emergency Test (SET) conducted in October each year – District 14 participates
- Other drills throughout the year practiced with outside agencies
- Participation is strongly encouraged
- Public Service events provide good practice
 - MS-150
 - CERT Rodeo
- Weekly Training Net required by plan – designated repeaters
- District 14 ARES NET will be activated unannounced at least yearly



District 14 Emergency Communications Plan Terrorism Threat Level



- Homeland Security threat color code progression:
 - Green
 - Blue
 - Yellow - Moderate
 - Orange - High
 - Red
- Each unit shall adopt emergency readiness procedures that correspond to these levels



District 14 Emergency Communications Plan Net Operations



- Texas Traffic Net System embraces many types of net operations, using many modes of communication.
 - Operate 24-7-365 with a wide variety of schedules.
 - Basic cluster of Section nets in Texas subscribes to, and functions within, the operating procedures of the NTS
 - Special-purpose nets
 - Texas Traffic Net
 - ARRL® Information Net
 - Various circuits operating CW
 - Other digital modes.



District 14 Emergency Communications Plan Net Operations



- VHF and UHF local or semi-local nets operate every day
 - Procedures vary widely
 - Individual participation is strongly encouraged
 - A good way to become familiar with net operating procedures and how different nets function and operate.
- ARES North, South and West Texas Sections operate combined traffic nets, which serve all three sections
 - See Plan for days times and frequencies



District 14 Emergency Communications Plan Staging Areas



- During mobilizations, staging areas may be established and announced on the 147.000 MHz (+) 103.5 repeater
- Incoming amateurs report to the Intake Coordinator
 - briefed, given directions, and appropriate assignments
 - official managing a staging area maintains close liaison with the appropriate unit EC via net control to ensure effective use of resources
- Intake Coordinator records
 - operator names,
 - call sign,
 - license class,
 - cell and home phone numbers,
 - capability to provide HF, VHF, UHF and digital modes without assistance,
 - length of time the operator is able to operate.



District 14 Emergency Communications Plan Staging Areas



- The Intake Coordinator should note special needs such as food and shelter or other important information on the appropriate ICS forms.
- Each unit shall include copies of ICS forms in their communications plan.
- It is important to note how long each volunteer operator is prepared to operate.
- Forms shall be retained and given to Logistics.



District 14 Emergency Communications Plan

Staging Areas



- One or more staging areas may be set up based on the type of emergency response required
 - Should be readily accessible along main routes
 - Avoid congestion or conflict with sites in use by the County or State
 - Capability to temporarily park up to 20 vehicles without interfering with commercial or institutional activities that may be in progress
- Ordinarily, schools, churches, or other high volume traffic sites would **not** be designated as staging areas.
- Potential staging areas:
 - HEB Parking lots.
 - Wal-Mart Parking Lots
 - Other locations that may be designated during NET operations.



District 14 Emergency Communications Plan



END OF PART 2

TUNE IN NEXT WEEK FOR PART 3