



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



THE AMERICAN RADIO RELAY LEAGUE									
RADIOGRAM									
VIA AMATEUR RADIO									
NUMBER	PRECEDENCE	HX	STATION OF ORIGIN	CHECK	PLACE OF ORIGIN	TIME FILED	DATE		
<p>TO _____</p> <p>TELEPHONE NUMBER _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>					<p>THIS RADIO MESSAGE WAS RECEIVED AT</p> <p>AMATEUR STATION _____ PHONE _____</p> <p>NAME _____</p> <p>STREET ADDRESS _____</p> <p>CITY AND STATE _____</p>				
REC'D	FROM	DATE	TIME	SENT	TO	DATE	TIME		
<p>THIS RADIOGRAM WAS TRANSMITTED BY THE STATION TO WHICH IT WAS ADDRESSED. THE STATION TO WHICH IT WAS ADDRESSED IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DELIVERY OF THIS MESSAGE. NO OTHER PRECEDENCE CAN BE ASSIGNED BY A THIRD PARTY. A SPECIAL MESSAGE MAY BE FILED WITH THE HEAD OF LINE AT THIS MESSAGE TO THE EXTENT THE STATION CAN HANDLE IT. THIS MESSAGE MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE HEAD QUARTERS, 221 MAIN STREET, ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN 48106.</p>				<p>THE AMERICAN RADIO RELAY LEAGUE, INC., IS THE NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE SOCIETY OF LICENSED AMATEUR RADIO OPERATORS AND IS NOT A COMMERCIAL ENTITY. THE PURPOSE OF THE LEAGUE IS TO PROMOTE THE INTERESTS OF AMATEUR RADIO OPERATORS AND TO PROVIDE A SERVICE TO THE PUBLIC. THE LEAGUE HAS ORGANIZED THE NATIONAL TRAFFIC SYSTEM FOR AMATEUR RADIO OPERATORS. (R-1)</p> <p style="text-align: right;">FORM 10-1-54</p>					

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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