

Amateur Radio Emergency Service

Emergency Communications Plan for Webb County

South Texas Section, District 13



Revision History

Date	By	Description
December 29, 2010	Van A. Eash	Initial Publication

1. INTRODUCTION

- A. ***Safety is the first priority. No one should ever be placed in a dangerous situation. These guidelines do not substitute for common sense.***
- B. The Webb County Amateur Radio Emergency Service is a field organization of the American Radio Relay League (ARRL). It is composed of FCC licensed amateur radio operators who are trained emergency communicators, volunteering their personal time, skill and equipment, to serve in the public interest. The Webb County ARES group is focused on providing service to Webb County, Texas and the surrounding area. Amateur Radio operators living within or near Webb County are eligible for participation in Webb County ARES.
- C. Under Federal regulations, Amateur Radio public service communications are furnished without compensation of any kind.
- D. Webb County ARES functions under this Emergency Plan under the direction of the Webb County ARES *Emergency Coordinator (EC)* who is appointed by the ARES South Texas Section *Emergency Coordinator (SEC)* in consultation with ARES South Texas *District 13 Emergency Coordinator (DEC)*.
- E. The *EC* may appoint *Assistant Emergency Coordinators (AEC's)* as needed for ARES to function efficiently.
- F. ARES members are the personification of Amateur Radio to the public and to the agencies we serve. These guidelines apply to all ARES volunteers. Although these are not conditions for participation, we strongly encourage each ARES member to understand and respect these standards.
 - ARES members will conduct themselves showing respect and courtesy to all, especially to those we serve. We are listeners and communicators not policy makers.
 - ARES members will not act as agents of the agencies we serve. In our ARES role, we are volunteers and have no authority to act on behalf of the agency without a specific delegation of authority from the agency.
 - ARES members will not use profanity, vulgar language or language which may be considered inappropriate to the situation.

- ARES members will not park vehicles in restricted areas, unless specifically authorized to do so by the agencies we serve.
- ARES members will not solicit or accept contributions, gifts, merchandise, or services from any individuals or businesses, especially while using the name of ARES, local EOC's, or the phrase Emergency Services. No ARES member (including ARES leadership) is authorized to use the name of an agency without prior written permission from the agency.
- ARES members will not use the logos or identifying marks of the agencies that we serve without prior approval by those agencies.
- All prospective ARES members must be able to pass their respective County credentialing requirements (if required) and must maintain appropriate dress code standards requirements as necessitated by the situation and the served agency.
- No policies or guidelines can substitute for good judgment. All ARES members must use common sense and best available safety practices in fulfilling their duties. ARES, its leadership, and its members are not liable for any incidents, damages, losses, or injuries to other ARES volunteers.

2. PURPOSE

- A. The purpose of this plan is to provide a written guide containing the minimum information needed in an emergency. Each emergency is different and flexibility to provide an adequate response to each is a necessity.
- B. The primary responsibility of Webb County ARES is to furnish communications in the event of a natural or man-made disaster, when regular communications fail or are insufficient.
- C. Drills, training and instruction shall be carried out to ensure an ability to respond quickly and to effectively provide emergency communications when the need arises.
- D. The following agencies may be served during a communications emergency: *City of Laredo Emergency Operations Center, Fire Departments; Police Department; Sheriff's Departments; American Red Cross; Laredo Medical Center; Doctor's Hospital; Salvation Army; and any other agencies requesting assistance from ARES.*
- E. Webb County ARES may be requested to serve the *Texas Division of Emergency Management, or the Federal Emergency Management Agency.*
- F. Webb County ARES may provide support for other counties or ARES districts at the request of ARES District or Section authorities.
- G. Webb County ARES may provide communications support at public events conducted by non-profit organizations in non-emergency situations.
- H. Webb County ARES may support the Skywarn program of the National Weather Service (NWS) at the NWS's request. A request from a locally served agency is not required for Skywarn support.

3. ACTIVATING THE PLAN

- A. Any served agency may contact the Webb County ARES Emergency Coordinator, John Letney, Cell: +1(409) 383-8366, or any member of ARES and request communications support at any time. Contact numbers are listed at the end of this document.
- B. Any ARES member who becomes aware that a communications emergency may exist should contact the local EC/AEC either by telephone or any other means available.
- C. The EC, AEC, or designated ARES member, upon evaluation of the situation will activate the mobilization procedure.

4. ARES MOBILIZATION PROCEDURE

1. The EC, AEC or designated ARES member will notify other ARES members using the telephone call-up plan or VHF/UHF communication on the relevant repeater frequency, email, paging systems, runner or any other legal means. Local radio broadcast stations and cable channels may be contacted by the EC or his representative, if necessary, for spot announcements alerting ARES members.
2. Upon awareness or notification that a communications emergency exists, members of Webb County ARES should check into the ARES STX District 13 Emergency Net.
 - a. The EC, AEC or designated ARES member will assume Net Control or designate the Net Control Station (NCS). Control will be from the Laredo Emergency Operations Center or other station as designated. The NCS station is a "Key Station" and will be extensively utilized during a communication emergency. Key stations should have full emergency power capability with relief operators assigned to ensure continuous operation.
 - b. Local repeaters include: *primary repeater* 147.12 (100.0 tone, + offset), *secondary repeater* 146.94 (100.0, - offset) *{in repair as of 12/29/2010}*, tertiary repeater 146.76 (no tone, + positive offset). In the event of all repeaters failing, nets will be conducted in simplex mode on the repeater outputs (147.12, 146.94, 146.76). In addition, the National FM Calling Frequency 146.52 should be monitored at all times during emergency operations.

5. DUTIES OF NCS

1. The ARES STX District 13 Emergency Net will be called to order by the NCS.
2. Members of Webb County ARES are checked into the net from their mobiles and home stations to wait for further instructions.
3. Liaison stations will be assigned to the following National Traffic System nets
 - a. STX section Texas Traffic Net/ ARES Net: 7285 MHz (day), 3873 MHz (night)
4. Mobiles will be dispatched to the Webb County Chapter of the American Red Cross, local hospitals, and other agencies as needed.
5. Mobile units may be activated and dispatched as the situation requires.

6. OPERATIONS

1. All messages generated for input into to the National Traffic System (NTS) shall be in the standard ARRL form (Radiogram). Messages originating locally by served agencies for delivery locally, to the District Disaster Center or outside Webb County will be transmitted on Incident Command System (ICS) Form 213.
2. All messages must be signed by the originating official, along with his title, verifying responsibility for their contents.
3. Message precedence of EMERGENCY, Priority, Routine, and Health and Welfare, as defined on ARRL Form FSD-3, shall be used on all messages.
4. Stations do not transmit unless invited to do so by net control. The only exception to this is for a station having EMERGENCY traffic.
5. When traffic volume is sufficient and when operator equipment is capable of doing so, messages should be passed on alternate frequencies so that net frequencies remain open for traffic coordination. This will be at NCS discretion, or when no NCS is present, by mutual operator agreement.

7. DRILLS, TESTS AND ALERTS

1. An annual test will be conducted in conjunction with the nationwide ARRL Simulated Emergency Test.
2. Webb County ARES may supply public safety communications in conjunction with local events.
3. The ARES STX District 13 Emergency Net meets every Monday at 7:00 P.M. local time on the 147.12 repeater (100.0 tone, + offset).
4. At the discretion of the EC, ARES will be activated unannounced via the call-up plan at least once per year.

More info can be found on the local ARES website:

<http://laredohams.com/...>

8. LOCAL AND STATEWIDE FREQUENCIES:

VHF: Primary 147.12+ (100.0 tone)
Secondary 146.94- (100.0 tone) *{currently under repair}*
Tertiary 146.76+ (no tone)
Nat'l. Calling Freq. 146.52 simplex (no tone)

UHF:

HF: Daytime 7.285 MHz (ARES emergency traffic only)
7.290 MHz (Health and Welfare traffic)
Night 3.873 MHz (ARES emergency traffic only)
3.922 MHz (Health and Welfare traffic)

ARES Winlink Packet: N5SSH-10 145.010 (Grid Square: EL07GO)
KD5REJ-10 145.010 (Grid Square: EL07GM)

ARES Winlink HF: N5TW Winlink HF n5tw (at) winlink.org
W0MAC Winlink HF w0mac (at) winlink.org
K5RAW Winmor HF k5raw (at) winlink.org
N5SSH Winmor HF n5ssh (at) winlink.org
KD5REJ Winmor HF kd5rej (at) winlink.org

9. ARES POINTS OF CONTACT

Webb County EC: John Letney, KE5CVT
2118 Guerrero St., Apt. C
Laredo, TX 78043
Cell: (409) 383-8366
E-mail: emergencyofficer (at) laredohams.com
ke5cvt (at) gmail.com

Webb County AEC: Bob Roszkowski, W5EVH
Laredo, TX 78045
Cell: (956) 286-5150
E-mail: president (at) laredohams.com
bob (at) w5evh.com

Webb County AEC: John Reimund, WD5FLU
Box 450661
Laredo, TX 78045
Cell (956) 337 3952
Work (956) 795 3325
Work Fax 956 795 3330
E-mail: tubaj0hn (at) gmail.com

Webb County AEC: Van A. Eash, KD5REJ
3406 Stamford
Laredo, TX 78043
Home: (956) 727-0706
Office: (734) 737-5870
Cell: (956) 237-3822
E-mail: kd5rej (at) laredohams.com
veash (at) hayes-lemmerz.com

District 13 DEC: Frank Aguilar, N5SSH
8727 Augusta Loop
Laredo, TX 78045
Home: (956) 726-8880
Cell: (956) 324-7494
Email: n5ssh (at) arrl.net
frank (at) faguilar.com

South Texas SEC: Tom Whiteside, N5TX

ARRL STX SM: Lee Cooper, W5LHC