

**Amateur Radio Emergency Service
Standard Operating Guidelines
For Grayson County, Texas**

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The local Texoma Emergency Communications Organization (TECO) provides oversight and guidance to the Grayson County Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) which is composed of FCC licensed amateur operators who have voluntarily registered their capabilities and equipment for public service communications duty.
- 1.2 The TECO ARES functions by this standard operating procedure under the direction of the county Emergency Coordinator (EC) who is appointed by the ARRL North Texas Section Communication Manager.
- 1.3 The EC may appoint assistant ECs (AECs) sufficient to function efficiently.
- 1.4 All amateur radio operators in the area should monitor the repeater for alert level status whenever severe weather conditions appear to be developing or when an emergency communications situation may exist.

Frequencies to be monitored:

Primary – 147.00 Mhz - +600 kHz PL 100.0 Hz

Alternate #1 - 147.28 Mhz - +600 kHz PL 107.2 Hz

Alternate #2 - 444.75 Mhz +5MHz PL 100.0 Hz

Alternate#4 - 146.52 Mhz simplex- no PL required. Listen for directions

Other frequencies as determined by the EC or local emergency management officials.

2.0 PURPOSE

- 2.1 The purpose of this plan is to provide a standard operating guide for ARES operations in Grayson County whether for severe weather or other emergency.
- 2.2 The primary responsibility of ARES is to furnish local communities advance warning of approaching funnel clouds, tornadoes, or other damaging weather conditions.
- 2.3 The secondary responsibility is to furnish emergency communications in the event of natural disasters when regular communications fail or are inadequate.
- 2.4 Drills, training and instructions shall be carried out to insure readiness in providing effective amateur operations whenever the need arises.
- 2.5 The following agencies could be served during an emergency:
 - 1) Emergency Management Agencies of Grayson County
 - 2) The American Red Cross
 - 3) The Salvation Army
 - 4) Other agencies requesting assistance, upon approval of the EC.

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3.0 ACITIVATING THE PLAN

- 3.1 Designated members of TECO ARES who become aware of the severe weather conditions or a communications emergency should take steps to activate the Grayson County ARES net (hereinafter NET). He or she should notify those on the repeater of this condition and request all stations to standby.
- 3.2 If the internet (email), local or cell telephone service is available, the EC and/or an Assistant ECs should be notified by the most expedient means. Group paging by text message to cell phone may be utilized to notify participating TECO- ARES operators of the alert level status. A telephone or email list may also be utilized as needed.
- 3.3 The NET may be activated by the EC or an AEC or upon request of Emergency Management Officials of Grayson County, any of its sixteen cities, or the American Red Cross.

4.0 ALERT PROCEDURES

- 4.1 All amateur radio operators in the Grayson County area should monitor the 147.00 repeater whenever a serve weather condition or communications emergency exists Refer to par. 1.4 for the alternate frequencies.
- 4.2 A standby weather alert may be called as in par. 3.1. In the case a directed net is called; stations should check-in and be ready to respond to the Net Control Station (NCS).
- 4.3 If after viewing the number of check-ins and if the situation warrants, the EC or AEC shall implement means necessary to provide additional operators.
- 4.4 Mobile units are activated if the situation warrants as determined by the Net Control Station.
- 4.5 The EC will assume net control or delegate another operator as the Net Control Station. Control may be made from the most appropriate location as directed by the EC or designated AEC, after consultation with relevant emergency management officials, including but not limited to the NCS home station, the Emergency Operation Center in Sherman, Denison or Grayson County or other such location. Safety of volunteer personnel during ARES operations will be the primary criteria for all operating decisions by the EC and AECs.
- 4.6 Echolink may be utilized by the NWS in a weather related event. Designated AECs will monitor and place Echolink in proper mode for this use.
- 4.7 In those situations declared a RACES operation by appropriate Emergency Management Officials, the RACES Radio Officer and assistants will report to the Grayson County EOC.

5.0 COMMUNICATIONS EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

- 5.1 The RACES Radio Officer or Designee will operate from the Grayson County EOC.
- 5.2 A disaster team will set up local communications for Emergency Management and/or other served agencies as needed.

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- 5.3 Key 2-meter stations will link with area repeaters as listed in par. 6.3.
- 5.4 The designated AEC for HF operations will coordinate the set up one or more HF stations and arrange to have operators and assistants as needed.
- 5.5 The Volunteer Services Liaison will contact local volunteer agencies in assistance during the emergency, as defined by the Grayson County EOC, and set up additional HF stations as needed. These local volunteer services include, but are not limited to: Grayson County Community Emergency Response Team, Red Cross, and The Salvation Army.
- 5.6 There will be a location designated and an AEC assigned to that location to coordinate out-of- county amateur radio operators who are willing to assist with emergency operations. They will remain at that location until they are assigned to a served agency.
- 5.7 The EC will maintain liaison with local emergency management and government officials, served agencies, local amateurs, ARRL Section Emergency Coordinator and the Section Communication Manager.

6.0 DUTIES OF THE NET CONTROL STATION

- 6.1 The NET will be called to order by the NCS.
- 6.2 Members are checked into the net from their mobiles or home stations to await further instructions. Stations should re-check with the NCS as directed. Stations must let the NCS know when they change location and their new location. Stations that are checked into the net must check-out with the NCS.
- 6.3 Liaison stations may be assigned for the following:
 - 1) Collin County ARES primary – 147.18 MHz +600 kHz 107.2 Hz
 - 2) Collin County ARES secondary – 146.74 MHz -600 kHz 110.9 Hz
 - 3) Collin County ARES command – 444.250 MHz +5.00 MHz 79.7 Hz
 - 4) Denton County ARES –146.92 MHz -600 kHz 110.9 Hz
 - 5) Cooke County* – 145.29 MHz – 600 kHz 100.0 Hz
 - 6) Cooke County* - 147.34 MHz +600 kHz 100.0 Hz
 - * No official ARES/SKYWARN listings
 - 7) Rosston repeater 145.49 Mhz. (unconfirmed)
 - 8) Bryan County EM – 146.985 MHz -600 kHz 118.8 Hz
 - 9) Fannin County north primary – 145.47 MHz -600kHz 100.0 Hz
 - 10) Fannin County south primary – 145.25 MHz -600kHz none
 - 11) Fannin County secondary – 145.13 MHz +600kHz 100.0 Hz
- 6.4 Mobiles are dispatched to an assigned spotting position if under a weather alert. At other times they are dispatched to wherever they are needed.
- 6.5 Operators of home stations not on emergency power are coordinated to operate key 2-meter and HF stations during an emergency.
- 6.6 If under a weather alert, the NCS should repeat the weather bulletins. Also a log shall be kept including; the time the net was activated, a list of reporting stations and logged times

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- of reports and what was reported, particularly, reports of significant hail, wall clouds, funnel clouds, and tornado touchdowns and the time the net was closed.
- 6.7 Report necessary information to the NWS in Fort Worth and relevant local officials as deemed necessary. NWS and other agencies may be notified through repeater link or by telephone.
 - 6.8 Keep all reporting to short, abbreviated communications. As NCS keep your transmissions extremely brief and allow ample time for breaking stations.
 - 6.9 If the storm has caused damage, be prepared to assist local emergency management officials and, upon their request, dispatch mobiles to survey and report the damage. No such damage assessments should be conducted until all severe weather or conditions have exited the County as a whole and monitoring/reporting operations in support of warning are complete. Advise local emergency management officials and broadcast an alert message to all radio operators if public service communications have been disrupted. If so, follow procedures under section 5 of this SOP. If the danger is over, check all participating stations out by going down the check-in log and calling each station's call sign, being sure all stations are accounted for, then secure the net, and return the repeater to normal amateur use.
 - 6.10 Assign net frequencies using the following guidelines: See frequencies in par. 1.4. Assignment of net frequencies will be made as needed.

7.0 OPERATIONS

- 7.1 All messages must be written as close as possible to standard ARRL form.
- 7.2 All messages should be signed by the originator with his name and official title.
- 7.3 Message precedence of EMERGENCY, PRIORITY, WELFARE, and ROUTINE as defined by ARRL shall be used.
- 7.4 Stations do not transmit unless directed to do so by the NCS. To be recognized by NCS, announce your call sign only. Use of BREAK-BREAK before your call sign indicates an emergency situation.
- 7.5 Upon recognition by NCS, Weather Spotters should give their location (address or cross street and street they are on) and weather report (reportable weather per SKYWARN training or request of NCS). No radar or non incident specific information should be reported. "Ground Truth," consistent with the reporting requirements specified by net control is the desired information.

8.0 DRILLS, TEST, AND ALERTS

- 8.1 An annual test will be conducted in conjunction with the nation/region/area wide Simulated Emergency Test as established by ARRL Section Manger.
- 8.2 Annual participation in Field Day is recommended to set-up our entire HF portion of this Emergency Operation Plan.

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- 8.3 TECO-ARES will conduct training nets on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month at 2000 local time (8pm). Onsite training may be established from time to time as directed by the EC.
- 8.4 At the discretion of the EC, a NET may be activated unannounced via various means (see section 3.0) at least once year.
- 8.5 Participation in multi-jurisdictional exercises as requested by local emergency management officials.

9.0 APPROVAL AND IMPELMENTATION

- 9.1 These Standard Operating Guidelines are incorporated by reference and as an Appendix to the Grayson County Emergency Management Plan, Annex B, Communications, and as such require approval of the Grayson County Emergency Management Coordinator before implementation.

APPENDIX I ARES ALERT LEVELS

APPENDIX II ARRL NTS form