



AMATEUR RADIO EMERGENCY SERVICE (ARES)



Tom Green County, Texas

Emergency Operations Plan

1. AUTHORITY

- a. The Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) is sponsored by the American Radio Relay League (ARRL) to fulfill the general responsibility of the amateur radio service to be prepared to provide communications in an emergency.
- b. ARES exists for the purpose of providing supplemental communications for government and non-profit organizations involved in emergency and disaster response and mitigation. The ARES field organization reaches all 50 states, as well as Puerto Rico and other island protectorates, and territories. In the ARRL West Texas Section, ARES groups are to serve all 68 counties including other agencies that serve those counties.
- c. Emergency Coordinators (EC) for each county or sub-divisions within these counties are charged with developing, recruiting, training, leading and directing ARES members, developing emergency plans and relationships with served agencies within their geographic area as necessary to meet anticipated communications emergencies.

2. INTRODUCTION

- a. The Tom Green County Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) operates under the auspices of the American Radio Relay League (ARRL), and is composed of Federal Communications Commission (FCC) licensed Amateur Radio operators who have voluntarily registered their capabilities and equipment for public service communications duty.
- b. Under Federal regulations, Amateur Radio public service communications are furnished without compensation of any kind.
- c. The Tom Green County ARES functions under this Emergency Plan and all other plans under the direction of the Tom Green County Emergency Coordinator (EC) who is appointed by the ARRL West Texas Emergency Coordinator in consultation with the ARRL District Emergency Coordinator.
- d. The EC may appoint assistant ECs as needed for the ARES to function efficiently.

3. PURPOSE

- a. The purpose of this plan and all other attached plans, Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), Standard Operating Guides (SOGs) and any other attachments, is to provide written information needed in any emergency. Each emergency is different and flexibility in each of the plans, SOPs and SOGs is provided for an adequate response to each disaster as a necessity. (See attached plans, SOPs, SOGs for further).

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- b. The primary responsibility of the Tom Green County ARES is to furnish communications in the event of a natural disaster or national or local emergency when regular communications fail or are inadequate.
- c. All drills, training, and instructions shall be carried out to insure readiness to respond quickly in providing effective amateur emergency communications whenever an emergency may arise.
- d. The following agencies could be served during a communications emergency: Tom Green County, American Red Cross; Shannon and Community Regional Medical Centers/Hospitals; City of San Angelo; County of Tom Green; area Fire Departments (both city and volunteer); area Law Enforcement (city, county, state); Salvation Army; Angelo State University and any other agencies requesting assistance from Tom Green County ARES.

4. ACTIVATING THE PLANS

- a. Any member of the Tom Green County ARES, who for any reason suspects a communications emergency exists, should monitor the assigned area and state nets and local repeaters for activity. (See attached plans, SOPs, SOGs for further).
- b. If local telephone service is available, the EC and/or assistant ECs will be notified by telephone.
- c. In order to alert Amateur Radio Operators, any city, Red Cross, Civil Preparedness, or similar official may notify the Emergency Coordinator of an emergency where Amateur Radio might serve the community.

5. ARES MOBILIZATION PROCEDURE

- a. An announcement alerting all ARES members will be made on the San Angelo Amateur Radio Club's (SAARC) voice repeaters.
- b. If possible, all local area broadcast stations; both radio and TV will be contacted by the EC or his representative for spot announcements to alert all area ARES members.
- c. If telephone service is available, the telephone tree will be activated. (See attached sheet).
- d. Upon receiving notification that a communication emergency exists, members of the Tom Green County ARES will monitor the San Angelo Amateur Radio Club repeater system or another assigned repeater at the time of notification.
- e. Mobile units will be activated and dispatched.
- f. The EC will assume net control or delegate another station as Net Control Station (NCS). Net Control will maintain coordination with the Tom Green County/City of San Angelo Emergency Operating Center (EOC) and/or the emergency communications van/trailer.
- g. Net Control is designated as a "Key Station" and will be extensively utilized during a communications emergency. Key Stations will have full emergency power capability with relief operators assigned to ensure continuous operation.

6. DUTIES OF NCS

- a. Members of the Tom Green County will be checked into the net from their mobile and home stations to await further instructions.

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- b. The Tom Green County ARES Net will be called and activated on request by the NCS
 - ii. The Big Bend Emergency Net can be called and requested to be activated for use by the TGC-ARES on request by the EC and the NCS as need for any disaster requiring their assistance.
- c. Liaison stations to the National Traffic System and Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) nets will be assigned.
- d. Mobile units will be dispatched to the agencies being assisted as needed. A mobile station can be dispatched to any of the local area radio or TV stations.
- e. Operators of home stations not on emergency power will be coordinated to effectively operate or support the “Key Stations” or assist in mobile and Net Control Station operations under 4.d above as needed.
- f. If other area, surrounding area or state amateur radio ARES resources should be need for any type of area disaster, they should be contacted to see if they can also be activated.

7. OPERATIONS

- a. All formal messages must be written traffic in standard ARRL form.
- b. All formal messages must be signed by the official who originates them and is taking responsibility for their content. His title must be included with his signature.
- c. Message procedures of EMERGENCY, Priority, Welfare and Routine, as defined on ARRL form FSD-3, shall be used on all messages.
- d. Stations will not transmit unless invited to do so by net control. The only exception to this is a station having EMERGENCY traffic.

8. DRILLS, TESTS, AND ALERTS

- a. An annual test will be conducted in October in conjunction with the nationwide ARRL Simulated Emergency Test.
- b. To test the effectiveness of the operation, the Tom Green County ARES, when requested, will regularly supply public safety communications in conjunction with local events.
- c. The Tom Green County ARES Net will meet each Monday night at 2030 hrs (8:30 PM) on 444.350 MHz repeater and on a Simplex frequency on the last Monday night of each month. (Check the Simplex Channel Plan for more details)
- d. The Big Bend / West Texas Section Emergency Net meets each Sunday at 0830 central time on 3.922 MHz
- e. The Texas State ARES net meets Monday of each week at 1930 hours local time on 3.873 MHz
- f. At the discretion of the EC, the ARES will be activated unannounced via the telephone tree and 147.300 MHz repeater at least once per year.