



AMATEUR RADIO EMERGENCY SERVICE (ARES)



Tom Green County, Texas

ARES Operations Plan

Operation Damage Assessment

I. Overview:

The Tom Green County ARES Support Plan, short titled "Operation Damage Assessment", is in support of Tom Green County / City of San Angelo Office of Emergency Management (OEM) Agency's need for immediate damage assessment following weather events that result in damage. Operation Damage Assessment is designed to provide city/county emergency management personnel with immediate damage assessment reports through the deployment of Tom Green County Amateur Radio Emergency Service (TGC-ARES) resources into areas that may have sustained damage that impacts the public through a safety hazard such as downed power lines or impassible roads caused by downed trees, flooding, etc.

This activity should not be confused with damage assessment performed by the American Red Cross as part of their efforts in response to the needs of individuals left homeless as the result of a disaster situation. Provided communications shall be as a public service and are designed to alleviate public suffering caused by major disaster events.

The Tom Green County Amateur Radio Emergency Service (TGC-ARES) will support the OEM by providing amateur radio operators trained in emergency communications and providing personal equipment. The TGC-ARES will also provide resources for emergency communications during disasters and other emergency situations.

II. Related Documents/Information:

There is a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Tom Green County / City of San Angelo Office of Emergency Management (OEM) Agency and the Tom Green County Amateur Radio Emergency Service (TGC-ARES).

This document will act as a supplement in part to the Tom Green County / City of San Angelo Emergency Management Plan, the Basic part and the Communications Annex C.

Annex A of this plan will show the Fire Station Boundaries Map for all of the Fire Districts within the City of San Angelo and the Tom Green County volunteer fire departments.

Other parts of this plan will include the following:

Ton Green County ARES SOP: NET 1-1 Net Control Stations (Under development)

Tom Green County ARES SOP: NET 1-2 Net Operation (Under development)

Tom Green County ARES SOP: NET 1-3 Net Frequencies (Under development)

III. Definitions and Terminology:

ARES – Amateur Radio Emergency Service.

DRS – Designated Relay Station.

EC – Emergency Coordinator (ARES).

EOC – Emergency Operations Center (specifically the Tom Green/San Angelo EOC).

NCS – Net Control Station.

OEM – Tom Green County / City of San Angelo Office of Emergency Management (OEM) Agency.

Response Team – A team of ten individuals comprised of a Response Team Leader, an Alternate Response Team Leader and eight other emergency-trained amateur radio operators. All members of the team should live within close proximity of the facility with which they are associated.

RT – Response Team.

RTL – Response Team Leader.

SAFD – City of San Angelo Fire and Emergency Service units.

SAPD – City of San Angelo Police Service units.

SOG - Standard Operating Guide.

SOP – Standard Operating Procedure.

TGC-FES – Tom Green County Fire and Emergency Service units.

TGC SO - Tom Green County Sheriff's Office.

IV. Mission:

The immediate damage assessment report is critical to the deployment of emergency resources. It is critical to determine the impact of the event causing the damage on the community and on government services. An ineffective or delayed immediate damage assessment can cause unreasonable responses to emergencies, making vital resources unavailable for other emergencies.

The mission of Operation Damage Assessment is to provide immediate damage reports (within minutes) to the Tom Green County Emergency Service units, the City of San Angelo Emergency Service Units, or if the Tom Green County/City of San Angelo Emergency Operations Center (EOC) has activated, to the EOC. The following types of information shall be reported:

- Existing or potential need for emergency action;
- Life safety threat to the general public;
- Possible hazards to emergency response personnel;
- Existing or potential property damage;
- Obstructions to site or area access;
- Damage to roadways;
- Damage to municipal services; and
- Other unsafe conditions.

V. Activation:

Pre-Activation -

With damage of the type to be reported under Operation Damage Assessment typically resulting from severe weather events, a SKYWARN net may be a precursor to a call for activation of this Plan. If this is the case, all net functions will already be in place. The only change would be termination of the requirement for the liaison to the National Weather Service once the severe weather warning expires.

Activation -

Formal activation of Operation Damage Assessment will commence when reports of damage are received during the course of a SKYWARN net or if requested by any of the city or county emergency service units and/or directed by the ARES Emergency Coordinator or his designated representative.

Assignments will be directed through the liaison established with OEM, as need.

All tactical nets used to support this plan will operate at Net Control Condition 2.

VI. Deployment Locations and Required Assets:

Response Teams (RT), from the affected area(s) of the city or county, will be directed by the NCS. Mobile operation will be the key in providing the widest coverage for reporting. The liaison station will provide input from personnel to NCS regarding areas to be investigated. The NCS will make assignments based on availability of personnel.

Should damage assessment be more than a few reports, an RT could be deployed to City of San Angelo Public Communications Center and/or to the Tom Green County Sheriff's Office. A station can be located within the facility to function as an NCS, if need or as a relay station to directly pass reports on to the communications personnel to relay the information to the required emergency management personnel.

If the EOC is activated, the EOC Team will activate in the EOC and assume report collection responsibility as the situation dictates.

VII. Hours of Operation:

Based on the situation, the RT's should be prepared to operate until the damage survey is completed.

If a prolonged operation is anticipated, ARES Logistics will be activated to coordinate replacement personnel.

VIII. Resources Required:

Resources required will be based on the scope of the supported incident. All attempts will be made to keep RT's whole and to use them in the geographic areas where needed. However, the nature of the event, particularly natural disasters, may require teams to come into an area where the local ARES members must attend to personal issues related to the disaster.

Team augmentation may be required due to the absence of members or the duration of the event.

Logistics will coordinate augmentation.

All responding personnel should be prepared with adequate fuel in their vehicles to perform the mission.

Remember that power may be out in the response area making refueling in the area impossible. Also, respondents for night damage assessment should be equipped with a light that can be used to see damage to the sides of their vehicles.

IX. Safety:

Under no circumstances are ARES personnel to get into a situation that may put them at risk. Where there is a requirement for immediate response by emergency personnel, notify the NCS that you have emergency traffic and pass the information to Incident Command.

X. Tactical Call Signs:

Tactical call signs will be used as follows:

<u>Location</u>	<u>Tactical Call sign</u>
Net Control Station (NCS)	NET Control
Command Center	COMMAND (or NET if serving as NCS)
Designated Relay Station (DRS)	RELAY
Emergency Operations Center	EOC
ARES Logistics Function	Logistics

All stations performing damage assessment will use their operator call signs or their ARES assigned numbers.

Other tactical call signs will be assigned by the NCS and/or EOC Team as appropriate.

XI. Frequencies:

Support:	Initial activation	146.940 MHz FM - (PL 103.5) (San Angelo ARC Repeater)
	Backup activation	444.225 MHz FM+ (PL 162.2) (KC5EZZ area link repeater)
	Backup activation	444.350 MHz FM+ (PL 162.2) (N5SVK Echolink repeater)
	Simplex	146.000 MHz FM (PL None)

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Health and Welfare: Initial activation	147.300 MHz FM + (PL 88.5) (Pri)
Backup activation	146.880 MHz FM + (PL 88.5) (Alt)
Simplex	444.000 MHz FM (PL None)

XII. Liaison Requirements:

San Angelo Public Safety Communications Command Center: Telephone: 325-657-4315 / 4316
Tom Green County Sheriff's Office Dispatch – 325-655-8111

XIII. Logistics:

Logistics will not be activated unless activity beyond immediate damage assessment is required.

XIV. Operation

All operations will be directed by the EOC Team in coordination with Tom Green County / City of San Angelo OEM.

The AEC for Net Management & SKYWARN or a designated representative will be responsible for establishing an NCS schedule for the conduct of all required nets.

All communications nets will be conducted in accordance with established Tom Green County ARES SOPs.

Specific locations will be provided using street address identifications.

General locations will be reported using Fire District identifiers as indicated on Fire Station Boundaries maps provided.

It is anticipated that most traffic will be tactical in nature. The forms contained in the attachment will be used by all personnel to record and report damage assessments.

XV. Deactivation:

Operations will be deactivated at the direction of OEM and EC for TGC-ARES.

All forms used to record and report damage assessments shall be submitted to the AEC for Administration or their designated representative within 24 hours of the end of the operation.

XVI. Post-Event Critique:

Within five days of terminating incident support, all ARES participants should provide a written assessment of the incident support by ARES along with copies of logs and any formal messages to the AEC for Training. This information will be assembled and discussed at the next regularly scheduled meeting of Tom Green County ARES and shared with the OEM in post-event discussions.

Attachment 1

Damage Assessment Forms

TYPES: GAS, POWER, WATER, SANITARY, DAM, DRAINAGE, ROADWAY, BRIDGE, CULVERT, DEBRIS, ETC.

Form Instructions

Column one, **EOC/LIAISON USE ONLY**, is for the individual taking reports to record the reporting time and the call sign of the station providing the report.

Column two, **LOCATION**, is the address or nearest cross street and distance/direction, i.e., 240 Berkshire Drive, Lawrenceville or 100 yards north of intersection of Highways 316 and 20.

Column three, **DESCRIPTION OF DAMAGE**, is a description of the type damage, i.e., tree down with live power lines.

Column four, **TYPE**, is the most significant type of damage and contains one of the following: GAS, POWER, WATER, SANITARY, DAM, DRAINAGE, ROADWAY, BRIDGE, CULVERT, or DEBRIS, i.e., if it is both debris and downed power line, the type would be POWER.

Column four, **DAMAGE**, is used to indicate the level of damage as defined:

MINOR – damage that does not present a threat to life or further property damage, i.e., tree down, blocking a minor area but no other problems associated with the incident.

MAJOR – damage that poses further threat to life or further property damage, i.e., downed power lines that are live or of unknown status; ruptured gas line, access to major area is blocked.

DESTROYED – facility being reported is totally destroyed, i.e., a bridge is out.