



ARES STX ECOMM PLAN

Presented by

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ECOMM PLANS



- Amateur radio license granted by FCC
 - Grants privileges and sets rules for our hobby
- Obligation and responsibility to assist in emergencies
 - **FCC Part 97 Rules & Regulations, Subpart A, Section 97.1, Basis and Purpose:**
 - The rules and regulations in this Part are designed to provide an amateur radio service having a fundamental purpose as expressed in the following principles:
 - (a) Recognition and enhancement of the value of the amateur service to the public as a voluntary noncommercial communication service, **particularly with respect to providing emergency communications.**
 - (b) Continuation and extension of the amateur's proven ability to contribute to the advancement of the radio art.
 - (c) Encouragement and improvement of the amateur service through rules which provide for advancing skills in both the communications and technical phases of the art.
 - (d) Expansion of the existing reservoir within the amateur radio service of trained operators, technicians, and electronics experts.
 - (e) Continuation and extension of the amateur's unique ability to enhance international goodwill.



ECOMM PLANS



- Why Plan ?
 - Define Situations when unusual activities may be needed
 - Specify who goes where, does what and how will they do it
 - Define and allocate equipment resources
 - Provide supporting information
 - If you fail to lead people, anything they do must be OK !
- Types of Plans
 - Geographic Areas (State, District, etc.)
 - Situational (Hurricane, Fire, HazMat, etc.)
 - Functional (Communications, Medical, Search & Rescue, etc.)
 - Organizational levels → Hierarchy of Plans → “Top down”
 - Supporting plans provide details for higher level plans



Organization



– ARES Organizational Structure

- ARRL → ARES (National) → Division → (West Gulf) → Section (STX) → District (Dist 1 Montgomery County, etc. & Dist 14 Harris County) → Local (NE Harris County Group, East Montgomery County Group)

– ARES Leadership

- ARRL President - Joel Harrison, W5ZN
- West Gulf Division (TX & OK) Director - Coy C. Day, N5OK
- South Texas (STX) Section Manager (SM) - Ray Taylor, N5NAV
- South Texas (STX) Section Emergency Coordinator - Mike Schwartz – KG5TL
- District 14 Emergency Coordinator (DEC) - Ken Mitchell, KD2KW
- Local Emergency Coordinators (EC)
 - NE Harris County – Richard Driscoll Jr. KD5URB
 - NW Harris County – Bull Rimmer N5LYG
 - SE Harris County - Mike Ulrich KA5CVH
 - SW Harris County – Del Partridge W5QQ



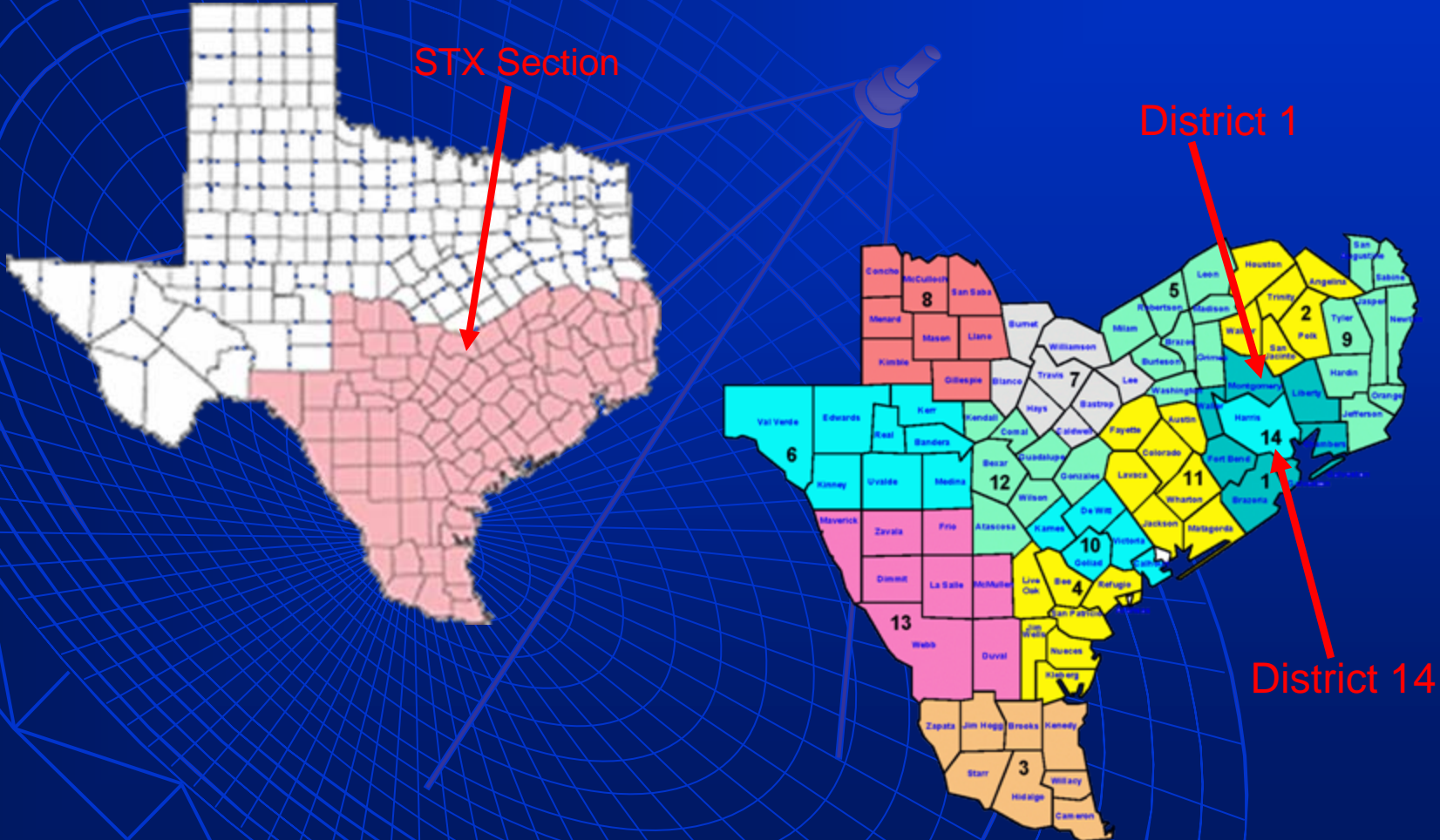
ARES Leadership cont.



- Montgomery County ARES is in STX Section, District 1
- District 1 also includes Brazoria, Chambers, Fort Bend, Galveston, Liberty and Waller Counties.
 - District 1 Emergency Coordinator (DEC) - Christine Smith N5CAS
 - Montgomery County Emergency Coordinator - Tommy Hayes N5PJY, EC
 - Montgomery County Assistant Emergency Coordinators (AEC)
 - Joe Gadus KD5KTX, (East)
 - Max Taylor W1MAX, (Central)
 - Rud Merriam K5RUD, (South)



ARES South Texas (STX) Section





Emergency Communications Plans



Plan for the worst, hope for the best !

- ARRL → ARES → **Public Service Communications Manual**
 - <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/pscm/index.html>
- ARES South Texas (STX) ECOM Plan
 - <http://www.arrlstx.org/digital/STXeplan.htm>
- District 14 ARES ECOM Plan
 - http://harriscountyares.org/ops/dist_14_com_plan.pdf
- NE Harris County – (Under Development)
- STX & Dist. 14 ECOM Plans also posted as attachments to these slides.



STX ARES ECOM Plan



- **Purpose:** - provide general and specific guidance to the appointed leaders of the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) in meeting their responsibilities to develop, train, and direct ARES members in mitigating communications emergencies among public safety and disaster relief organizations within the ARRL South Texas Section.
- **Situation:** - 97 counties, 96,000 square miles, 525 miles east to west, 450 miles north to south, over 600 miles of coast line, 450 miles of border with Mexico, 60 miles of border with Louisiana; thick forest, coastal plains, hill country, rivers and lakes;
 - population of over 11 million people is in large urban areas with high population density (Houston, San Antonio, Austin), and counties with little population and low density;
 - state capitol in Austin, and the international ports of Houston and Galveston.



STX ARES ECOM Plan cont.



THREATS

- Weather
 - Flooding / Flash Floods
 - Winds
 - Hurricanes
 - Tornadoes
 - Thunderstorms

- Technological
 - HazMat – Petrochemical Facilities
 - Transportation – Highway, Rail, Air, Waterways
 - Radiological – Nuclear Plant near Bay City
 - Fires

- Terrorism
 - Facilities
 - People



STX ARES ECOM Plan cont.



- Request from Public Agency for support
 - Closest ARES Leader
 - ARES → Trained People, Personal Equipment, Repeaters
 - Monitor local repeater(s) during potential emergency
- ARES activates @ various locations with operators
 - Under direction of local EC
 - ARES maintains own organization and identity
 - DO NOT report to emergency site unless directed
- ARES EC's plan, coordinate, staff, train, assign, manage
- Members operate @ sites
 - Take care of family and self first
 - Avoid placing self @ risk



STX ARES ECOM Plan



END OF PART 1

TUNE IN NEXT WEEK FOR CONCLUSION



STX ARES ECOM Plan cont.



Situation Report (SITREP)

- Required at Activation and Daily NLT 1900 local time
 1. INCIDENT TYPE: brief description
 2. REPORTING PERIOD:
 3. SUPPORTED CLIENTS & LOCATIONS: brief description
 4. NUMBER OF ARES OPERATORS
 - 4a. Currently committed:
 - 4b. Contacted:
 - 4c. Additional needed:
 5. REPORT BY: name, callsign, county



STX ARES ECOM Plan cont.



- **ARES Response Levels**
 - Level 1 – Needs met locally
 - Level 2 – Additional resources needed from within District
 - Level 3 – Additional resources needed from adjacent Districts
 - Level 4 – Additional resources needed from outside STX Section
- **Mutual Aid** among 97 counties in STX may be needed
- **Requests for assistance** follow Amateur Radio Comm Teams (ARCT) resource types (ARCT 1 through ARCT 4) (See Attached Definitions)
 - In Section response members designated as ARES Communications Response Teams (ARES CRT), Types 1 – 4
 - Out of Section response members designated as ARES Mutual Assistance Teams (ARES MATs), Types 1 – 4



STX ARES ECOM Plan cont.

Readiness Conditions



- Condition 4 – Normal
 - Day to day operations
 - Plan, Organize and Train
- Condition 3 - Increased Readiness
 - Increased potential for threat
 - Weather WATCH
 - Review plans, check equipment, increase awareness
- Condition 2 – Escalated Response Condition
 - Deteriorating situation
 - Weather **WARNING**
- Condition 1 – Emergency Condition
 - Threat at hand
 - Shelter, Evacuate, Recover



STX ARES ECOM Plan cont.



Readiness Conditions And Actions

- Condition 4 – Normal
 - ARES leaders should maintain contact on the state ARES HF net at 7:30 PM each Monday evening; establish relationships with potential ARES clients; organize, recruit and train ARES members.
 - ARES members should improve their knowledge and skills through ARECC training, participating in public service events, meetings, traffic and ARES training nets; program radios with ARES frequencies; verify the readiness of their equipment on a monthly basis; and enjoy Amateur Radio.
- Condition 3 - Increased Readiness
 - If activated, ARES leaders should maintain contact on the state ARES HF net at 7 PM each evening; review ARES emergency communications plan; contact potential ARES clients; notify ARES members that activation is possible but not expected.
 - ARES members should review their family emergency plan; refresh food, water and clothes in go-kits; check or charge HT and storage batteries weekly; carry HT at all times; keep their vehicle fuel tank more than half full; and participate in weekly nets.



STX ARES ECOM Plan cont.



Readiness Conditions And Actions

- Condition 2 – Escalated Response Condition
 - If activated, ARES leaders, or their representative, should maintain contact on the state ARES HF net at 7 PM each evening; prepare operator schedules for key clients, operations and resource nets; activate a resource net; conduct a daily meeting or conference call with ARES leaders; notify ARES members that activation is expected or imminent.
 - ARES members should monitor their ARES repeaters; secure their home, family and emergency supplies; top off their vehicle fuel tank; place go-kits and batteries in car.
- Condition 1 – Emergency Condition
 - ARES leaders, or their representative, should maintain continuing contact on the state ARES HF net; activate local operations nets; and send a daily situation report to their DEC or the SEC.
 - ARES members should follow the direction of their ARES leaders or delegated representatives, such as net control stations.



STX ARES ECOM Plan cont.



- **STX Section emergency frequencies**
 - Emergency and tactical traffic
 - Day: 7285 kHz LSB Night: 3873 kHz LSB
 - Health and welfare traffic
 - Day: 7290 kHz LSB Night: 3935 kHz LSB
- **Digital Messaging Required**
 - HF Digital National Traffic System for NTS messages w/o E-mail addresses
 - Winlink 2000 for destinations with E-mail addresses
 - TelPac, Paclink, Airmail or Outpost
 - RTTY, PSK31 not recommended – no error correction
 - Digital practice is encouraged
- **STX ARES maintains 4 HF capable PMBO's**



STX ARES ECOM Plan cont.



RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- District 14 should have a minimum of 4 Telpac stations and is encouraged to establish a full EMCOMM PMBO station, preferably in a hardened location with backup power. This allows hubbing local communications in the event of an Internet failure as well as providing an HF path for distant communications.
- Each ARES member should utilize Airmail for HF Winlink 2000, or Airmail, Paclink or Outpost for VHF / UHF Winlink 2000 for ARES training and emergency communications on a regular basis. This includes receiving messages for third party delivery as well as sending messages.
- All DEC's should have HF Airmail capability.
- ARES groups with equipment installed in local facilities such as EOCs are encouraged to extend these to include Winlink capability for communication with local Telpac or remote HF Winlink facilities.



SUMMARY



- **ARES STX ECOMM Plan**
 - provides guidance and direction for emergency communication support by ARES EC's and local members
 - Obtain a copy, read and keep for reference
- **ARES District 14 Plan**
 - Future training sessions will outline
- **NE Harris County Plan**
 - Future training sessions will outline when published