



ARES District 14

Emergency Communications Plan

Part 1

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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)
- Dist. 14 ECOM Plan posted as attachments to these slides.



District 14 ECOM Plan Basis & Purpose



- **Purpose:** To implement Part 97.1 of the FCC regulations and Federal and international treaty law applying to Amateur Radio, specifically to Harris County, Texas, District 14 ARES®.
- **Responsibility:** Provide effective and efficient communications in the event of a natural disaster or emergency involving any major threat to life or property, to supplement normal communications, or in the event of communications failures, to provide the necessary communications links where applicable and possible.



District 14 ECOM Plan Basis & Purpose



- Requires drills, training and instruction
 - planned and executed to ensure maximum readiness and capability to respond expeditiously
 - provide effective and efficient operator volunteers for emergency communications whenever the need arises.
- Serve local agencies with whom MOU's exist or if requested by other agencies
- Will merge with management of the Incident Command System (ICS) and the National Incident Management System (NIMS)
- Members strongly encouraged to take FEMA courses IS-100, IS-200, IS-700 and IS-800



District 14 ECOM Plan Introduction



- Members are encouraged to obtain a State of Texas Division of Emergency Management State RACES Authorization Unit Number.
- Services are furnished without compensation of any kind.
- District 14 ARES® radio operator personnel are federally licensed, receive no remuneration of any kind for their services, and in most cases, provide the equipment utilized at their own expense.
- District 14 ARES® functions under this Emergency Plan by direction of the District Emergency Coordinator (DEC) who is appointed by the ARRL® South Texas Section Manager.
- South Texas Section Emergency Plan takes precedence if conflicts exist -- District 14 Emergency Plan will be subordinate.



District 14 ECOM Plan Introduction



- ARES® volunteers work for ARES®, operate within the ARES® guidelines and FCC regulations.
- Not employees of the served agency but must operate within their operational rules and regulations.
- DEC, through his ECs, coordinates training, organization and emergency participation in his district.



District 14 ECOM Plan Introduction



- Emergency Coordinator is responsible for:
 - Organizing and coordinating Amateur Radio communications in his specific assigned area of responsibility to accommodate the needs of agencies served and support of District 14
 - Appointing AECs to assist in his duties
 - Developing an emergency plan and operations manual, which will compliment the South Texas emergency Plan and this document.
 - Preparing job descriptions for AECs.



District 14 ECOM Plan HF Frequencies



- 3.873 MHz Night Emergency Net
- 7.285 MHz Day Emergency Net
- 3.935 MHz Night Health and Welfare Net
- 7.290 MHz Day Health and Welfare Net
- 7.0925 MHz Day Digital
- 3.5925 MHz Night Digital



District 14 ECOM Plan

VHF / UHF Frequencies



147.000 (+)(103.5) – Harris County ARES informational net. This net exists primarily to keep the general membership informed.

145.170 (-)(123.0) is the back up to the 147.000 repeater.

444.600 (+)(71.9) is the UHF countywide repeater and may be used for other coordinating nets if needed.

Northwest Quadrant	Northeast Quadrant
146.720 (-)(123.0) 146.760 (-)(103.5) 147.300 (+)(151.4) 146.660 (-)(141.3) 146.440 Simplex 147.440 Simplex	145.430 (-)(none) Simplex (if repeater down) 147.280 (+)(100.0) Simplex (if repeater down) 444.825 (+)(103.5) 443.550 (+)(103.5) 146.410 simplex 28.410 USB
Southwest Quadrant 145.190 (-)(123.0) 146.940 (-)(167.9) 145.170 (-)(123.0) 147.200 (+)(141.3) 442.350 (+)(103.5) 146.560 simplex 147.560 simplex	Inside the IH-610 Loop 145.170 (-)(123.0) 146.840(-)(103.5) 146.960(-)(167.9) 147.080(+)(none) 147.320(+)(none) D-Star Data 1293.??
	Southeast Quadrant 146.640 (-)(none) 145.130 (-)(none) 145.370 (-)(123.0) 146.860 (-)(100.0) 146.780 (-)(none) 145.600 simplex 145.700 simplex



District 14 ECOM Plan ACTIVATING THE PLAN



- If you suspect an emergency, monitor the District 14 information / bulletin repeater, 147.000 MHz (+) PL 103.5 Hz.
- The actual alert will normally come through the ARES® District 14 DEC.
- The automated alert system may be used for the initial alert. (Not operational at present)
- Phone tree and email notification systems may also be employed in addition to the automated system.



District 14 ECOM Plan MOBILIZATION



- Mobilization initiated by South Texas Section SEC or ARES® District 14 DEC
- District Net control will be handled from Transtar, a mobile unit in route, or other fixed station location depending on availability, requirements and severity of the situation.
- EC or AEC initiates their Unit and contacts served agencies for needs and intentions.
- For information concerning the alert and/or mobilization status
 - Monitor ARES repeater @ 147.000 MHz (+) 103.5,
 - TEAC repeaters
 - E-mail
 - Phones
- Further directions and instructions, including freq's, will be announced as event develops.



District 14 ECOM Plan MOBILIZATION



- Units establish their own Net Control for local and support operations.
 - Establish Simplex frequencies for use if repeaters fail.
- Unit Net Control communicates with District Net Control
- District Net Control shall be kept advised of Unit status.
- Ready Response Teams (RRTs) may be dispatched to work @ sites (MH-NE, Shelters, Fire Stations, Mayor's Assistant's Office, etc.) where equipment has been installed.
- Three to five individuals should be assigned to each RRT.
- RRTs should have their own ICS Plan, developed with Agency served.
- 30 Minute response time for RRTs specified by Plan.
- RRTs work through Unit Net Control to District Net Control



District 14 ECOM Plan MOBILIZATION



- Confusion WILL occur
 - Stay calm
 - Be professional and courteous
 - Stay flexible
 - Be part of solution ,not part of the problem
- DO NOT respond to actual scene of emergency unless specifically invited or directed
 - Report to Assembly Area
 - Check in with Intake Coordinator
 - Uses ICS forms to control resources
 - Accurate records are essential
 - Check out when leaving



District 14 ECOM Plan MOBILIZATION



- Net Control may operate from a “Key Station” which must have
 - full emergency power capability
 - relief operators assigned to ensure continuous operation
- One permanent designated “Key Station” exists in District 14
 - Harris County Transtar, Homeland Security and Office of Emergency Management, (call sign N5TRS) is the Primary Key Station, located in the Northwest Quadrant.
- Plan requires each Unit in District 14 to identify Key Stations in their individual unit emergency plans.



District 14 ECOM Plan



END OF PART 1

TUNE IN NEXT WEEK FOR PART 2