



# ARES District 14

## Emergency Communications Plan

### Part 3

Presented by

Chuck Sprick  
KE5RAD

Northeast Harris County AEC



# District 14 Emergency Communications Plan Review of Parts 1 & 2



- Part 1 covered:
  - Purpose of Plan
  - Introduction
  - Activation
  - Mobilization Procedures
- Part 2 covered:
  - Operations
  - Drills and Alerts
  - Terrorism Threat Levels
  - Net Operations
  - Staging Areas
- This Session covers:
  - Alert Conditions
  - Actions For Each



# District 14 Emergency Communications Plan

## ALERT DEFINITIONS AND INCREASED READINESS CONDITIONS



- Definitions from STX ECOMM Plan but expanded
- “Level” = “Condition” as used by TranStar
- **Condition 4 – Awareness**
  - higher level of readiness is required
  - triggered by possibility of a weather watch or increased fire threat
  - potential possibility of civil disorder or terrorism threat.
  - **District 14 ARES® Action**
    - All members should review their unit emergency plan.



# District 14 Emergency Communications Plan

## Condition 3 – **Caution**



- **Condition 3 – Caution**
  - automatically triggered when the National Weather Service or local weather service, issues a “Watch” condition
  - anytime Harris County Transtar goes to Level 3
  - conditions may deteriorate into a more hazardous situation
  - Increased threat of civil disorder or terrorism
- Conditions that could trigger Condition 3
  - Hurricane Watch.
  - High wind advisories with wind velocities in excess of 50 mph.
  - High water watch.
  - Flash flood watch.
  - Tornado watch.
  - Winter storm watch.
  - Similar conditions in adjacent or nearby counties that could escalate into a mutual aid requirement.



# District 14 Emergency Communications Plan

## Condition 3 – **Caution**



- **District 14 ARES® Action**

- Follow instructions in your unit emergency plan
- Be prepared
- Your welfare and your family's welfare take priority
- Review Section Four of this Operations Manual
- ECs and AECs monitor the Texas ARES® HF net
  - > three hour intervals beginning at 1900 local time
- District 14 ARES® members
  - monitor the District 14 ARES® bulletin repeater (147.000 MHz [+]  
103.5)
  - check email for information bulletins
- NET may be activated for roll call and to pass advisory information.



# District 14 Emergency Communications Plan

## Condition 2 - Alert



- **Condition 2 - Alert**
  - automatically triggered by severe weather warnings
  - Harris County Transtar issues a Level 2 Alert
  - increased possibility of civil disorder or terrorism
- **Conditions that could trigger Condition 3**
  - High wind warnings with winds in excess of 60 miles per hour.
  - High water warnings.
  - Tornado warnings.
  - Flash flood warnings.
  - Winter storm warnings.
  - Similar conditions in adjacent or nearby counties when assistance and mutual aid from District 14 may be requested.



# District 14 Emergency Communications Plan

## Condition 2 - Alert



- **District 14 ARES® Action Under Condition 2 - Alert**
  - Follow instructions in your unit emergency plan
  - Be prepared
  - Expect the unexpected
  - Family first.
- **EC and AECs**
  - monitor the Texas ARES® HF net at not less than three hour intervals beginning at 1900 local time
- **Members**
  - monitor the 147.000 MHz (+) 103.5 bulletin repeater
  - check email for information bulletins
  - Net may be activated for roll call and to pass advisory information.
- **DEC, Unit EC and AECs**
  - review Planning and operational aspects of emergency activation
- **Operations AEC and Logistics AEC**
  - contact RRT leaders, NET Manager, NCS operators, Duty Officers and Intake Coordinators to ensure their availability and readiness
- **Planning AEC**
  - review and update the appropriate served agency Incident Action Plans (IAPs)
  - ensure that the most current version has been sent to all concerned.



# District 14 Emergency Communications Plan

## Condition 2 - Alert



- Depending on the situation's overview, and anticipated developments, any and all nets may be activated by direction of the DEC or EC.
- Members
  - monitor the NET frequencies announced on the 147.000 MHz (+) 103.5 District 14 ARES® bulletin repeater.
  - be aware that the automatic call up and alert system, the phone tree and the email alert system could be initiated in a Condition 2 Alert.





# District 14 Emergency Communications Plan

## Condition 1 – Imminent Danger



- **Condition 1 – Imminent Danger**
  - triggered by actual weather conditions or severe weather warnings when the danger to personal property and life may be threatened
  - only issued when there is a situation that has put the region, state or nation in extreme danger.
- The South Texas Section SEC or the District 14 ARES® DEC would normally be the authority authorized to trigger a Condition 1 Alert
- **Condition 1 Alert will not be automatic**
  - Only in extreme circumstances will the unit EC issue a Condition 1 Alert
    - example could be the touching down of a tornado in southwest Harris County with the probability of extensive damage.



# District 14 Emergency Communications Plan

## Condition 1 – **Imminent Danger**



- Condition 1 – **Imminent Danger**
  - could be triggered by civil disorder, terrorism
  - any condition including, but not limited to:
    - Extremely high winds approaching Hurricane Category 1 status.
    - Tornado sightings or tornado sightings moving toward Harris County.
    - Actual flooding



# District 14 Emergency Communications Plan

## Condition 1 – **Imminent Danger**



- **District 14 Action for Condition 1 – Imminent Danger**
  - highest alert level in the South Texas Section and District 14
  - preparations have been made by all District 14 members
  - automated alert system has been activated.
  - telephone tree and email systems have also been activated if time permitted
- **All District 14 Units have been activated.**
  - personnel have been activated and are at or in route to
    - Transtar
    - Greater Houston American Red Cross Headquarters and Disaster Control
    - all other EOCs
    - or their assignments.
  - Backup teams are in standby and making any final preparations.
  - Units Tactical and Resource Net is in operation.
- **Harris County Transtar is on Level 1 alert status.**



# District 14 Emergency Communications Plan



END OF PART 3

TUNE IN NEXT TIME FOR PART 4