



# ARES District 14

## Emergency Communications Plan

### Part 5

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# District 14 Emergency Communications Plan Review of Parts 1, 2, 3 & 4



## Part 1

- Purpose of Plan
- Introduction
- Activation
- Mobilization Procedures

## Part 2

- Operations
- Drills and Alerts
- Terrorism Threat Levels
- Net Operations
- Staging Areas

## Part 3

- Alert Conditions / Levels
- Actions During Each Level

## Part 4

- Emergency Organizational Structure
  - District 14
  - Unit
  - RRT (Intro)



# District 14 Emergency Communications Plan

## READY RESPONSE TEAMS



- Role - provide effective and efficient emergency communications when required
- Goal - have a RRT assigned to each served agency
  - Served agencies with MOU receive priority.
- Objective - provide team of qualified communicators to the specific served agency
  - When not called upon to support assigned agency, provide backup support to other RRTs.



# District 14 Emergency Communications Plan

## READY RESPONSE TEAMS Continued



- Responsibilities of RRT Leader :
  - Act as the liaison between operations and served agency
  - Ensure a current copy of the served agency's emergency plan is available to Unit EC and Unit Operations AEC.
  - Maintain a current listing for each of the team members including their most current contact information.
  - Maintain RRT's operating schedule during drills and actuals
  - Notify operations and logistics when resource shortages exist
  - Ensure each member has been trained on the operation of all Amateur Radio equipment at the served agency site.
  - Make arrangements for equipment to be installed to fulfill the served agency's EmComm requirements, if lacking
    - Go Kit
    - Antenna and feedline
    - Full station



# District 14 Emergency Communications Plan

## READY RESPONSE TEAMS



- When District 14 is alerted, RRT Leader shall
  - communicate with the served agency
  - find out what their intended response will be
  - what their requirements may be
  - communicate information and intended response to Operations
- The RRT Leader
  - must have a working knowledge of the ICS and NIMS
  - shall know Served Agency's emergency plan
  - be a qualified NCS operator
  - be willing to run the local Unit Training Net from time to time
  - is responsible for the team's performance
  - is assisted by Unit EC, Operations AEC and Logistics AEC in locating and recruiting members for their team.



# District 14 Emergency Communications Plan

## READY RESPONSE TEAMS



- Other RRT members shall be trained to take command during the RRT leader's absence.
- RRT may have designated "Duty Officers" who share that responsibility
  - function as the Served Agency contact
  - rotating schedule
  - RRT leader determines designation and rotational schedule
- RRT members train as a unit specifically for a Served Agency
- RRT determines its logistic requirements relating to support, lodging and food
  - Served Agency may provide
  - Team members make provisions for their own support as needed
- Members should know other members' schedules, especially during high threat times



# District 14 Emergency Communications Plan

## READY RESPONSE TEAMS



- Served Agency Site Preparation for RRTs
  - Full equipment installation is ideal, but often unavailable
  - RRTs plan and provide supplemental equipment
  - Partial installation helps – antenna, feedline, etc
  - Remember backup and emergency power requirements
- Advance Preparations for RRTs
  - critical to the team's success
  - advance training and practice
  - specific assignments
  - proper equipment and personal gear
  - ready to go at a moments notice.



# District 14 Emergency Communications Plan

## READY RESPONSE TEAMS



- RRT Members education and training
  - FEMA ICS and NIMS courses
  - ARRL Emergency Communications Course Level I
  - District 14 emergency plan
  - Unit's emergency plan
  - clear understanding of their mission
  - Experience in operating the equipment at the Served Agency
  - Demonstrated skills as NCS in regular training net sessions
  - Practice getting assigned stations operational within thirty minutes
  - Participate in a simulated activation to test notification systems
- RRT Leader
  - ARRL Emergency Communications Courses Level I
  - Level II recommended
- Periodic refresher training sessions.





# District 14 Emergency Communications Plan

## READY RESPONSE TEAMS



- Minimum information and equipment to bring when activated:
  - A laminated wallet sized card containing
    - information on the notification system
    - key phone numbers
    - frequencies relating to specific mission.
  - Identification
    - FCC license
    - ARES / RACES ID
    - Served Agency issued ID cards.
  - Seventy-two hour response pack
    - Water
    - Food
    - protective clothing/footwear
    - cash for personal needs.
  -



# District 14 Emergency Communications Plan

## READY RESPONSE TEAMS



- Minimum communications equipment to bring when activated :
  - Handheld two-meter or dual-band radio
    - spare rechargeable and alkaline battery packs
    - rubber duck antenna
    - telescoping whip
    - twenty-five feet RG-58 or mini-8 feed line
    - ribbon J-Pole antenna
    - earphone headset
  - Two-meter or dual band mobile radio (Go Box)
    - magnetic mount gain antenna
    - fifty feet of coaxial cable
    - switching power supply
  - Portable carrying case or bag to store your gear
  - Anderson PowerPole connectors on all equipment DC connections
  - Vehicle (full tank) equipped with two-meter or dual band mobile radio.



# District 14 Emergency Communications Plan

## READY RESPONSE TEAMS



- Relief and Back-up
  - be aware that you may be called on to fill in for or relieve a RRT member -- plan accordingly
- Be prepared to render assistance where needed perhaps outside of Harris County
- District 14 leadership and Unit organizations shall
  - render service to their primary areas of responsibility first
  - secondarily provide assistance as described in Mutual Assistance Team (ARESMAT) plans and protocol.



## District 14 Emergency Communications Plan Miscellaneous Requirements



- Each unit ARES® communications plan will provide for the development of an Amateur Radio Communications Team (ARCT) consistent with the ARRL definition of Amateur Radio Communications Teams (ARCT).
- Resource Typing: Each District 14 Unit will *type* their personnel to ensure *resource* consistency between assigned and unassigned ARES® volunteer personnel.



# District 14 Emergency Communications Plan



END OF PART 5

FINAL SESSION