

Executive Summary

Purpose

The purpose of the *Gregg County Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Compendium*, herein referred to as Compendium, is to provide a body of knowledge and information on Amateur Radio infrastructure, operations, and procedures used in potential emergency incidents within Gregg County, as developed by the local Amateur Radio Emergency Services (ARES) unit.

Compendium Structure

The structure of the Compendium is as follows:

1. Contact List for Served Agencies
2. Executive Summary (this document)
3. Overview Presentation
4. ARES/Skywarn Participants Guide
5. Gregg County Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Plan
6. Skywarn Net Operations
7. ARES Net Operations

Local Organizations

The face of amateur radio emergency communications is managed by **Gregg County Emergency Communications (GCEC)**. GCEC is a volunteer, non-profit organization whose sole purpose is to provide emergency communications services on amateur radio frequencies. GCEC derives most of its resources from the local amateur radio club, **Longview East Texas Amateur Radio Club (LETARC)**.

Dual Affiliation with ARRL ARES and RACES

In accordance with **American Radio Relay League (ARRL)** recommendations, GCEC has recently dually-aligned itself with the ARRL **Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES)** and **Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES)**. RACES is very restricted in how it can be utilized by FCC Part 97 rules, whereas ARES has no such operational restrictions. This allows GCEC/LETARC maximum flexibility to allow for training, exercises, and preparedness.

ARRL Field Organization

ARRL ARES, as part of ARRL's Field Organization, provides a multi-tiered organizational structure, allowing for additional support and resources for the local ARES organization in incidents of larger scope and complexity. Within the ARES organizational structure, Gregg County is part of North Texas District 8, which is part of the North Texas Section of the ARRL Field Organization. The ARRL Field Organization also supports the National Traffic System, an interconnected set of HF nets. There are also liaison nets into the Military Auxiliary Radio System (MARS).

ARES Operational Model and Participant Training

Since 9/11 and Katrina, ARES has moved away from its old model of **local** Memos of Understanding (MOUs) with served agencies to a new Emergency Management model that recognizes that local Incident Command manages all volunteer resources. ARRL still has National MOUs with other volunteer, “served” agencies. However, the emphasis is on the newer EM model, based on the Incident Command Structure (ICS), National Incident Management System (NIMS), and the National Response Framework (NRF).

Participant training in ARES includes several FEMA courses and also ARRL’s own emergency communications course. Required and recommended training is documented in the Participants Guide.

County Amateur Radio Communications Plan

While there really is no way to anticipate every possible scenario that could utilize amateur radio resources, we have attempted to inventory/document the current infrastructure, what is needed to build/develop additional portable resources, a flexible, generalized frequency plan, and a list of potential scenarios with various served agencies.

The generalized frequency plan for the City of Longview is based primarily on the EOC and Red Cross as fixed locations and the City Fire Stations and Training Facility as potential portable locations. The plan utilizes a zoned simplex scheme, in addition to Cross Band Repeat (CBR) capability that can be utilized with fixed or portable repeater assets.

This same generalized frequency plan can be modified/expanded to cover a wider county-wide incident, if necessary.

Net Operations

The last two sections of the Compendium give details on operations and procedures for Skywarn and ARES nets.

Compendium Updates

This binder is designed so that each section document stands on its own and can be updated when necessary. Each document in the Compendium will be periodically reviewed and updated. Updates will be provided to holders of hardcopies of the Compendium. However, the latest version of the Compendium documents will always be available online on the ARES page of the LETARC web site (www.letarc.org).

Contacts

For contact information for the Gregg County ARES Emergency Coordinator (EC) or the Assistant Emergency Coordinators (AECs), please refer to Contact List for Served Agencies document.