



BIG BEND AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
1402 N. FIFTH
ALPINE, TEXAS 79830

Amateur Radio Emergency Service

Emergency Plan for the Big Bend of West Texas

1. INTRODUCTION

- a. The Big Bend Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) operates under the auspices of the American Radio Relay League (ARRL), and is composed of Federal Communications Commission (FCC) licensed Amateur Radio operators who have voluntarily registered their capabilities and equipment for public service communications duty.
- b. Under Federal regulations, Amateur Radio public service communications are furnished without compensation of any kind.
- c. The Big Bend ARES functions under this Emergency Plan under the direction of the Brewster County Emergency Coordinator (EC) who is appointed by the ARRL West Texas Emergency Coordinator in consultation with the ARRL District Emergency Coordinator.
- d. The EC may appoint assistant ECs as needed for the ARES to function efficiently.

2. PURPOSE

- a. The purpose of this plan is to provide a written guide containing the minimum information needed in an emergency. Each emergency is different and flexibility to provide an adequate response to each is a necessity.

- b. The primary responsibility of the Big Bend ARES is to furnish communications in the event of a natural disaster or national or local emergency when regular communications fail or are inadequate.
- c. All drills, training, and instruction shall be carried out to insure readiness to respond quickly in providing effective amateur emergency communications whenever an emergency may arise.
- d. The following agencies could be served during a communications emergency: Permian Basin Chapter, American Red Cross; Big Bend Regional Medical Center/Hospital; Civil Preparedness; City Hall; Fire Department; Police Department; Salvation Army; Sul Ross State University and any other agencies requesting assistance from the ARES.

3. ACTIVATING THE PLAN

- a. Any member of the Big Bend ARES who for any reason suspects a communications emergency exists should monitor the assigned nets of 146.72 MHz, 3.922 MHz, 3.873 MHz, or 7.243 MHz (day time) for activity.
- b. If local telephone service is available, the EC and/or assistant ECs will be notified by telephone.
- c. In order to alert Amateur Radio Operators, any city, Red Cross, Civil Preparedness, or similar official may notify the Emergency Coordinator of an emergency where Amateur Radio might serve the community.

4. ARES MOBILIZATION PROCEDURE

- a. An announcement alerting all ARES members will be made on the Big Bend Amateur Radio Club's (BBARC) voice repeaters.
- b. If possible, local broadcast stations KVLFF and KALP will be contacted by the EC or his representative for spot announcements to alert ARES members.

- c. If telephone service is available, the telephone tree will be activated.
- d. Upon receiving notification that a communication emergency exists, members of the Big Bend ARES will monitor the Big Bend Amateur Radio Club repeater system. If high frequency communication is required, the Big Bend Emergency Net on 3.922 MHz will also be activated.
- e. Mobile units will be activated and dispatched.
- f. The EC will assume net control or delegate another station as Net Control Station (NCS). Net Control will maintain coordination with the Big Bend Civil Preparedness Emergency Operating Center (EOC) or emergency communications van/trailer.
- g. Net Control is designated as a "Key Station" and will be extensively utilized during a communications emergency. Key Stations will have full emergency power capability with relief operators assigned to ensure continuous operation.

5. DUTIES OF NCS

- a. The Big Bend Emergency Net will be called to order by the NCS.
- b. Members of the Big Bend ARES will be checked into the net from their mobile and home stations to await further instructions.
- c. Liaison stations to the National Traffic System and Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) nets will be assigned.
- d. Mobile units will be dispatched to the agencies being assisted as needed. A mobile station will be dispatched to radio stations KVLG and KALP.
- e. Operators of home stations not on emergency power will be coordinated to effectively operate or support the "Key Stations" or assist in mobile and Net Control Station operations under 4.4 above as needed.

6. OPERATIONS

- a. All formal messages must be written traffic in standard ARRL form.
- b. All formal messages must be signed by the official who originates them and is taking responsibility for their content. His title must be included with his signature.
- c. Message procedures of EMERGENCY, Priority, Welfare and Routine, as defined on ARRL form FSD-3, shall be used on all messages.
- d. Stations will not transmit unless invited to do so by net control. The only exception to this is a station having EMERGENCY traffic.

7. DRILLS, TESTS, AND ALERTS

- a. An annual test will be conducted in October in conjunction with the nationwide ARRL Simulated Emergency Test.
- b. To test the effectiveness of the operation, the Big Bend ARES will regularly supply public safety communications in conjunction with local events.
- c. The Big Bend Emergency Net meets each Sunday at 0830 central time on 3.922 MHz.
- d. The Texas State ARES net meets Monday of each week at 1930 hours local time on 3.873 MHz.
- e. At the discretion of the EC, the ARES will be activated unannounced via the telephone tree and 146.720 MHz repeater at least once per year.