

AMATEUR RADIO EMERGENCY SERVICE PECOS COUNTY

Introduction

1. The Pecos County Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) is composed of FCC-licensed Amateur Radio operators who have voluntarily registered their expertise and equipment for public service communications duty.
2. Under FCC regulations, Amateur Radio public service communications are furnished without compensation.
3. The Pecos County ARES functions under the direction of the Pecos County Emergency Coordinator (EC), who is appointed by the ARRL West Texas Section Emergency Coordinator in consultation with the District Coordinator.
4. The EC may appoint assistant ECs as needed for the ARES to function efficiently.

Purpose

5. The purpose of this plan is to provide a written guide containing the minimum information that would be needed in an emergency. Each emergency is different, so flexibility is necessary to provide an adequate response during an emergency.
6. The primary responsibility of the Pecos County ARES is to furnish communications in the event of a disaster, when regular communications fail or are inadequate.
7. All drills, training and instruction shall be carried out to insure readiness to respond quickly in providing effective amateur radio communications whenever the occasion may arise.
8. The primary area of coverage for the Pecos County ARES is Pecos County. The agencies served during a communications emergency will include Pecos County, City of Fort Stockton, American Red Cross, Fort Stockton Police, Pecos County Sheriff, Fort Stockton Volunteer Fire Department, National Weather Service, and any other agency requiring communications aid during an emergency.

Activating the Plan

9. Any member of the Pecos County ARES, who for any reason suspects a communications emergency exists, should monitor the assigned net frequencies for activity.
10. If local telephone service is available, the EC and/or assistant ECs should be notified by telephone.
11. In an emergency in which Amateur Radio services might be required, Amateur Radio operators may be alerted by any city, Red Cross, or similar official notifying the Emergency Coordinator.

ARES Mobilization Procedure

The EC or assistant EC receiving notification of the emergency shall activate the telephone tree. All means shall be used to contact all members; i.e. telephone, cell phone, pager, and email.

Upon the awareness or notification that a communications emergency exists, ARES members will report into the Pecos County Emergency Net on the 145.37 repeater with 146.52 simplex used as the backup frequency.

The EC will assume net control or designate another station as net control. Net Control will be equipped with emergency power capability. If the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) is activated, Net Control will be located in the EOC.

If needed, supporting nets will be activated on alternate frequencies to facilitate efficient operations. Alternate nets may include a check-in net for members reporting and awaiting assignment or a traffic net for handling health-and-welfare traffic.

Duties of NCS

12. The Pecos County Emergency Net will be called to order by the Net Control Station (NCS).
13. Members of the Pecos County Emergency Net will be checked into the net and asked to standby to await further instructions.
14. If necessary, liaison stations will be assigned to the following nets:
 - a. Texas Traffic Net (3.873 MHz nighttime, 7.273 MHz daytime)
 - b. Big Bend Emergency Net (3.922 MHz)
15. Mobiles will be dispatched as needed.

Operations

16. All written messages must be in standard ARRL form
17. All messages must be signed by the official who originates them, with his title, taking responsibility for their content.
18. Message precedences of EMERGENCY, Priority, Welfare, and Routine, as defined on ARRL Form FSD-3, shall be used on all messages.
19. Stations do not transmit unless invited to do so by net control. The only exception to this rule is for a station having EMERGENCY traffic.

Preparedness

20. An annual test will be conducted in October of each year in conjunction with the nationwide ARRL Simulated Emergency Test.
21. The Pecos County ARES will regularly supply public safety communications in conjunction with local events, to test the effectiveness of the operation.

22. The Pecos County Emergency Net will meet every Sunday at 7 PM.
23. At the discretion of the EC, the ARES will be activated unannounced via the telephone tree at least once per year.
24. The EC will provide a member contact list and repeater frequency list to all members; this list will be updated as necessary.