ARES
Area Net Operations
Procedures
for
Lee County, FL

May 2020

ARES AREA NET OPERATIONS in Lee County, Florida

BEFORE THE STORM

Check Family Go Kit
Check Radio Go Kit
Evacuate if ordered
If you stay, is the structure strong enough to handle the predicted winds and is it located above the predicted storm surge level?

DURING THE STORM

Disconnect Antennas
Turn off all electronic equipment & disconnect from power grid
Stay away from windows and doors.

FOLLOWING THE STORM

Is everyone OK? No injuries?

Is it safe to remain where we are?

Do we have power from the grid? If not, what's available?

Do we have Land Line or Cell service?

Are my antennas still in place? If not, deploy an antenna.

Does my radio equipment work?

Is my Area Repeater "On the Air"?

    Yes – Check into your Area Net

    No – Check the Simplex frequency for your Area Net

IF YOU ARE AN ARES AREA NCS: FOLLOW THIS PROCEDURE

Net Control should immediately identify a "Back Up" NCS

The Back Up NCS should "shadow" the NCS

Both NCS and Back-Up should start an ICS-214 Activity Report and an ICS-309 Communications Log. Record everything, especially all messages handled (Not the entire message, just the time and number. Make sure to keep a copy of all messages, if at all possible!) We'll collect these when the Incident is over.

Keep a separate Log showing Check-Ins "coming and going."

Four Hour Shifts – Trade Off

HAND OFF AT END OF TWELVE HOUR SHIFT

List "Who's Here" to incoming NCS

List any "Open Items"

NET CONTROL OPERATIONS

At Startup of Net: Ask if anyone has an Emergency or has "Emergency Traffic" for the Net.

If Emergency Traffic is received and you cannot reach 911, pass that traffic to the EOC for handling. (Have the station with Emergency Traffic call the EOC on the EOC Frequency. See separate List)

Remind everyone that, if they have an emergency at any time, they should simply say the word "Emergency" to get your attention.

Establish "control" of the Net. Remind everyone that, once you acknowledge a check-in, they should "stand by" until called.

Ask if anyone has any "Priority Traffic" for the net.
--Interesting trying to define Priority…but, for example, you need Law Enforcement support as opposed to "Emergency Medical" or a "Fire Response." Or that a condition exists that will become an emergency if not tended to promptly. Again, try 911 first. Pass to EOC if 911 not available.

Take check-ins from ARES members and non-members.

Once you're satisfied that you have all the check-ins you're going to get, ask each station for a brief "Situation Report." *(Use Form)*

Make special note of anyone who is "Deployable within the County" either immediately or sometime later (if later, when?)

NOTE: *The EOC will ask for "Deployable Operators" as needed. And will, if possible, specify where help is needed.*

Pass "Member Situation Reports" to the EOC **when requested**.

NOTE: *The EOC may issue "Area Situation Reports" directly on your Area Net Repeater to save time. The EOC will always ask if the Area NCS is able to "stand by" while the EOC delivers the report.*

EOC Reports
During an activation, there are Briefings at the EOC on the hour. These Briefings will be summarized by EOC Ham Radio Staff and broadcast on the 147.165 Repeater on the half-hour. Try to keep a HT or other radio tuned to 147.165 and pass the briefings on to your Area Net. (Or suggest that your Area operators also monitor the 147.165 Repeater on the half hour.)

ARES NET VERSUS SWFTN

ARES Nets exist to support Disaster Response / Recovery and provide communications among the four ARES Areas and the EOC.

NOTE: *The Area ARES nets may also include Hospitals, GeoDivision Fire Stations and Law Enforcement agencies.*

A separate ARES Net provides Inter-County communications.

ARES Nets are NOT available for "Health & Welfare" traffic.

The SWFTN is the "Health & Welfare Traffic" venue.
The SWFTN will operate on the 146.685 RACES Repeater. Memory Channel 22.

ARES NET REPEATERS:

147.165 PL127.3 -- used for Inter-County Communications and for Bulletins. (Channel 01 on our Recommended Frequency List dated 6-11-19.)

146.820 PL136.5 -- in Estero…used for Green Area communications (Channel 3 on 6-11-19 List.)

147.345 PL136.5 -- in Lehigh…used for Yellow Area communications (Channel 5 on 6-11-19 List.)

146.880 PL136.5 -- in Ft. Myers…used for Blue Area communications (Channel 7 on 6-11-19 List.)

147.225 PL136.5 -- in Cape Coral…used for Red Area communications. (Channel 9 on 6-11-19 List.)

Should any of these repeaters fail to survive the storm,

then the **alternate Simplex Frequencies** for Area Net Controls are:

146.475 for EOC Main and Inter-County
146.580 for Green Area (Channel 4)
146.460 for Yellow Area (Channel 6)
146.490 for Blue Area (Channel 8)
146.550 for Red Area (Channel 10)

Keep in mind that, if you are unable to reach either the EOC Main or your Area Net on Simplex, ask for a "Relay."
An operator that can hear both the Area Net Control and you should step up and act as the "Relay."

NOTE: *The above Repeater and Simplex frequencies are the same as shown on the ARES Lee County Area Map dated July 2019.*