BARROW COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES

The instructions contained in this handbook are intended for the use by Barrow County CERT members only.

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BARROW COUNTY

EMERGENCY RADIO COMMUNICATION PLAN

This document for
CERT Operations only.

Prepared by
Barrow County CERT
Communication Team

Frequency Table

Type	Alpha	Description	Freq/Chnl Mhz	Group
VHF-2M	BARC2M	Barrow Amateur Radio Club Repeater	145.130 - PL 100.0	ARES
VHF-2M	CRT2MA CRT2MB	Simplex	146.580 (A) 147.525 (B)	SKYWARN/ ARES/CERT
VHF-2M	BCARES2M	Barrow Amateur Radio ARES Simplex	146.550	SKYWARN/ ARES
VHF-2M	TCARC2M	Tri County Repeater	146.625 - PL 127.3	SKYWARN/ ARES/CERT
UHF-440	CRT440A CRT440B	Simplex	445.925 (A) 446.125 (B)	SKYWARN/ ARES/CERT
UHF-440	CRT440R	Barrow County CERT/ARES Repeater	443.525 + PL 100	ARES/CERT Health District
UHF-440	TCARC440	Tri County Repeater	441.825 + PL 88.5	ARES/CERT
VHF-2M	ARMED2M	Athens Regional, ARES Repeater	146.745 - PL 123	ARES/Health District
FRS	CRTCP	FRS only 500mw (Low Power Setting)	FRS-1	CERT CP
FRS	CRTSTG	FRS only 500mw (Low Power Setting)	FRS-2	Staging
FRS	CRTLOG	FRS only 500mw (Low Power Setting)	FRS-3	Logistics
FRS	CRTOPS1	FRS only 500mw (Low Power Setting)	FRS-4	CERT Team Ops
FRS	CRTOPS2	FRS only 500mw (Low Power Setting)	FRS-5	CERT Team Ops
FRS	CRTOPS3	FRS only 500mw (Low Power Setting)	FRS-6	CERT Team Ops
FRS	CRTOPS4	FRS only 500mw (Low Power Setting)	FRS-7	CERT Team Ops

SAMPLE OPERATIONAL SCRIPT

NET CONTROL OPERATOR

CQ CQ CQ - All Stations - CQ CQ CQ All Stations

This is *(CALL SIGN)* Net control for the Barrow County Emergency Net.

This is a directed net . All communications will go through the net control station.

Any stations wishing to enter the net , please give your call sign, location and list your traffic.

Stations with Emergency or Priority traffic only, call now……..

(Once all emergency or priority traffic have been received by NCS, then call for routine traffic).

ROUTINE	Priority of this transmission is ROUTINE.
SAY AGAIN	Repeat all of your last transmission
SERVICE	The message that following is a SERVICE message.
SILENCE	(Repeated three or more times.) Cease transmission on this net immediately. Silence will be maintained until lifted. (This instruction should be issued by NCS)
SILENCE LIFTED	The Silence restriction is lifted.
SPEAK SLOWER	Your transmission is too fast, speak slower.
THIS IS	This transmission if from the station whose designation immediately follows.
TIME	The transmission that follows is the time or date time.
TO	That addressees which immediately following are the addressed for this message or action.
UNKNOWN STATION	The identity of the station with whom I am attempting to establish communication is unknown.
WAIT	I must pause for a few seconds.
WAIT - OUT	I must pause for more than a few seconds.
WILCO	I have received your signal or transmission and understand it, and will comply.
WORD AFTER	A point in the transmission after which is being referenced. Id: Please repeat word after.
WORD BEFORE	A point in the transmission before which is being referenced. ie: Please repeat word before.
WRONG	Your last transmission was incorrect. The correct version or information follows.

Frequency Table

Type	Alpha	Description	Freq/Chnl Mhz	Group
FRS	CRTOPS5	FRS only 500mw (Low Power Setting)	FRS-8	CERT Team Ops
FRS	CRTOPS6	FRS only 500mw (Low Power Setting)	FRS-9	CERT Team Ops
FRS	CRTOPS7	FRS only 500mw (Low Power Setting)	FRS-10	CERT Team Ops
FRS	CRTOPS8	FRS only 500mw (Low Power Setting)	FRS-11	CERT Team Ops
FRS	CRTOPS9	FRS only 500mw (Low Power Setting)	FRS-12	CERT Operations
FRS	CRTOPS10	FRS only 500mw (Low Power Setting)	FRS-13	CERT Operations
FRS	CRTOPS11	FRS only 500mw (Low Power Setting)	FRS-14	CERT Operations
GMRS	CRTGMR1	*Max 5w w/GMRS License.	GMRS-15	CERT EOC
GMRS	CRTGMR2	*Max 5w w/GMRS License. .	GMRS-16	CERT EOC
GMRS	CRTEOC3	*Max 5w w/GMRS License.	GMRS-17	CERT EOC
GMRS	CRTEOC4	*Max 5w w/GMRS License.	GMRS-18	CERT EOC
GMRS	CRTEOC5	*Max 5w w/GMRS License.	GMRS-19	CERT EOC
GMRS	CRTEOC6	*Max 5w w/GMRS License. .	GMRS-20	CERT EOC
GMRS	CRTEOC7	*Max 5w w/GMRS License.	GMRS-21	CERT EOC
GMRS	CRTEOC8	*Max 5w w/GMRS License.	GMRS-21	CERT EOC
GMRS	CRTEOC9	*Max 5w w/GMRS License.	GMRS-22	CERT EOC

Barrow County
CERT Communications Plan

Purpose

The purpose of this document is to describe the plan for CERT operational communications in the event of a disaster or other emergency that requires the activation of CERT teams.

Introduction

In a disaster or other emergency, communications between CERT and the Emergency Operations Center may be required to support casualty and damage assessment reporting or logistics requests. In addition, reliable communications between and among CERT teams will enhance their ability to complete their missions.

Further, normal means of communications (including landline and cellular phones) may be disrupted or unavailable. Therefore, it is important to have an alternate communication capability in place and available when needed.

This document details the procedures by which CERT teams can communicate with each other and the EOC in the event of an emergency utilizing two-way radios.

CERT Organization

Refer to the "Strike Team Handbook" for more specific detail on the structure of operational CERT teams in Barrow. When activated the team members should report to the rally point location indicated in the activation "Call Out" message. In many cases this may be the standard assigned rally point location.

PROWORDS

Words used to clarify or shorten voice transmissions.

BREAK	A specific separation in the message subject matter.
CALL SIGN	The group being address will be designated by this call sign.
CORRECT	You are correct or the information you have transmitted is correct.
CORRECTION	An error has been made in the transmission. Transmission will continue from the last word transmitted correctly.
DISREGARD THIS TRANSMISSION	This transmission is in error Disregard it. (This is not used to correct a completed transmission.)
EXEMPT	The addressees or call signs immediately following are exempted from this collective call.
FIGURES	Numerals or numbers follow.
IMMEDIATE	The precedence of this transmission is IMMEDIATE.
INFO	The addressees or call signs immediately following are addressed for information purposes only.
I READ BACK	The following is my response to your instruction to read back.
I SAY AGAIN	I am repeating transmission or message indicated.
MORE TO FOLLOW	Transmitting station has additional traffic for the receiving station.
OUT	This is the end of my transmission to you and no answer is required or expected.
OVER	This is the end of my transmission to you and a response is necessary or expected. (Also "Go Ahead and Transmit")
PRIORITY	Precedence for this transmission is PRIORITY.
READ BACK	Repeat this entire transmission back to me exactly as received.
RELAY (TO)	Transmit this message to all the addressees immediately following this.
ROGER	I have received your transmission satisfactorily.

PHONETIC ALPHABET

A - ALPHA
B - BRAVO
C- CHARLIE
D-DELTA
E-ECHO
F-FOXTROT
G-GOLF
H-HOTEL
I-INDIA
J-JULIET
K-KILO
L-LIMA
M-MIKE
N-NOVEMBER
O-OSCAR
P-PAPA
Q-QUEBEC
R-ROMEO
S-SIERRA
T-TANGO
U-UNIFORM
V-VICTOR
W-WISKEY
X-XRAY
Y-YANKEE
Z-ZULU

PHONETIC NUMBERS

0-ZERO
1-WUN (ONE)
2-TWO
3-TREE (THREE)
4-FOWER (FOUR)
5 -FIFE (FIVE)
6-SIX
7-SEVEN
8-ATE (EIGHT)
9-NINER (NINE)

Communications Roles

Effective communications requires that those performing the task of "Communicator" fully understand all the requirement and restriction related to this assignment. In addition, each CERT team member in possession of a FRS radio may also be called upon to act as the team communicator. However, only those who hold an appropriate FCC license may use amateur radio equipment.

Communicator Role

The role of the Communicator on a CERT team is to be that team's link for communications to the Net Control Station or EOC. If a radio amateur is available, that person is the logical choice to assume this role. If an amateur radio operator is not available then it will be necessary to use a cell phone or a radio assigned by the appropriate Public Safety official.

Team Member Role

All CERT team members, other than the Communicator, should be prepared to assume at least some role in communications.

Communications Modes

During CERT activation, CERT teams may use the following modes of communication:

1. Cell phones
2. FRS Radios
3. Amateur Radios

Note that both GMRS and Amateur Radio are "licensed" services; that is, an FCC license is required. It is the responsibility of the individual operators to obtain the required licenses.

FRS Radios

FRS radios are the primary tool used by CERT teams to communicate among themselves (intra-team communications) and with other nearby CERT teams (inter-team communications). Each CERT team will be assigned a unique frequency to be used for intra-team communications. **(Refer to page two of this manual for operating frequencies)**

GMRS Radios

The FRS radios issued by CERT are capable of both FRS and GMRS transmissions. However, use of GMRS restricted frequencies and/or GMRS transmitting power settings are restricted to those who hold a FCC license for that service. **(Refer to page two and three of this manual for available operating frequencies/channels).** For CERT amateur radio licensed operators the primary operating frequency will be CRT440R (Alpha) .

Amateur Radios

Amateur radios, operated by licensed amateurs, will be used to communicate between CERT operational teams and the Net Control Station. In an emergency. the licensed operator may communicate directly to the CERT Supervisor located at the EOC. **(Refer to page two and three of this manual for operating frequencies)**

Activation Plan

In the event of an emergency, CERT communications should be established as outlined in this section.

As a CERT team is formed, a team leader will be selected. If possible each team will also be assigned a CERT amateur radio operator. This team member will be designated the team Communicator. In some cases, if a team leader is licensed they could also assume this role, however this is not recommended..

The team Communicator is responsible to issue FRS/GMRS radios to team members. A minimum of four FRS/GMRS radios must be issued to each team. They should be distributed among the team members as follows; Team Leader, Team Medic, Team Communicator and at least one member of the search team

(preferably both). Each radio should be set to the assigned frequency and tested.

The Communicator should attempt to establish communications with the Net Control Station and/or the EOC using their 2m/440 amateur radio on the assigned frequency (which will be different from the FRS/GMRS frequency). The initial communication should be in the form of a quick "check-in" and should identify the team, team leader, number of team members and the status of the team.

For example:

*"Net Control this is (**calling operator call sign**) requesting communication check for CERT team 1, the team leader is (**name.**) The team consists of five total members. The team is prepared for departure to its assigned location"*

Be aware that the Net Control Station and/or EOC may be extremely busy and may not immediately respond. If your transmission is not acknowledged, wait and listen 5 minutes. Try again at repeated intervals, until you establish communications. In the meantime, use FRS to communicate between team members as required. If you are unable to establish communications with the NCS check frequency setting and also test other operational frequencies (page 2 and 3) to see if communications can be established with another team who may be able to relay your information to NCS.

All communications with NCS should be held to a minimum, however the team should ensure the NCS is aware of their location and status during operations. Always have your information prepared to communicate before you issue a call to the NCS. If necessary write down what you need to communicate. Also write down any information the NCS sends to the team and provide that information to the team leader. The communicator should maintain a log of all communications with NCS, indicating time, subject and message sent and confirmation that message was received.