

SLOECC ARES®/RACES Training Plan

Training Module: Section 5.4.5.

Use appropriate communication protocol when responding to emergency situations.

5.4.5. Use appropriate communication protocol when responding to emergency situations.

- Demonstrate radio net procedures used for emergency traffic
- List types of information never to be spoken over voice nets

RACES NET* (Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Services)

- Affiliated with FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Administration) and called by County Emergency Management
- Must be RACES certified (i.e. County Badged) to participate in the net
- No non-RACES communications on the net
- It is always a directed net
- Net Control Station is usually located in EOC (Emergency Operations Center)

Types of information never to be spoken over voice nets

- The Federal Communications Privacy Act does not protect Amateur Radio communications, and anything overheard may be legally revealed or discussed.
- Nevertheless, messages sent via Amateur Radio should be treated as privileged information, and revealed only to those directly involved with sending, handling, or receiving the message to offer at least a minimum level of message security.
- In any emergency situation, the press will be hunting for any tidbit of information they can get. One place they should **never** get information regarding the served agency or its efforts is from *you*.
- Politely refer all such inquiries to the served agency's public spokesperson.
- Avoid words or phrases that carry strong emotions. Most emergency situations are emotionally charged already, and you do not need to add to the problem.

Types of information never to be spoken over voice nets

- Messages relating to the death of any specific person should ***never*** be sent via Amateur Radio.
- Any message with personally identifiable information should be avoided.
- Names and addresses of evacuees should never be transmitted over voice channels, since thieves with scanners can use this information to loot unattended homes.
- Learn in advance your served agency's privacy policy regarding certain types of information.

Radio net procedures used for emergency traffic

- An “emergency” net is a group of stations who provide communication to one or more served agencies, or to the general public, in a communications emergency.
- A given emergency may require one or more type of net:
 - **Tactical nets** are used for real-time coordination of activities related to the emergency. This is a faster moving, often less formal operation. Messages are usually brief, and frequently unwritten.
 - A **traffic net** handles formal written messages in a specified format.
 - A “**resource**” or “**logistics**” net may be needed to acquire resources and volunteers, and handle assignments.
 - An **information net** is usually an open net used to collect or share information on a developing situation,. A good example is a SKYWARN weather net.

Station Identification During Net

- The easiest way to be sure you fulfill FCC station identification requirements during a net is to give your FCC call sign as you complete each *exchange*.
- This serves two important functions: 1) It tells the NCS that you consider the exchange complete (and saves time and extra words) 2) It fulfills all FCC identification requirements.
- After you send a message, you (“Aid 3”) would complete the call by saying “Aid 3, <*your call sign*>”. If Aid 3 had forgotten to identify, then the NCS should say, “Aid 3, do you have further traffic?” At that point, Aid 3 should either continue with the traffic, or “clear” by identifying as above.

Radio net procedures used for emergency traffic

<http://www.yoloares.org/operatortraining>

- **Net Preamble**
- 15 Minute Alert:. “Attention: The -----emergency Net, conducted in 15 minutes on the ----- repeater. Your Net Control is -----.” “The ----- requests the use of this frequency for the purpose of conducting an Emergency Net.”
- 5 Minute Alert “Attention: The ----- Emergency Net will be initiated in 5 minutes on the ----- repeater. Stations with traffic of interest to the Net may present it when called. Your Net Control today is (*Name, Call sign*).” Please stand by, the net will start at (Time) This is (*Call sign*) standing by for Net.”

Radio net procedures used for emergency traffic

III. Initiating the Net

· “This is the “SLOECC” (ARES or RACES) Emergency Net” ·

“Is there any priority or emergency traffic?”

“This is a directed net. All stations please refrain from transmitting unless called.

Stations with emergency traffic may break at any time.”

“Member Roll Call Follows, Please give your name, call sign, location, availability, and relevant capability (mobile, packet, etc.).” (Enter received information into the appropriate LogSheet)

“Are there any late or missed member check-ins to the Net?”

Radio net procedures used for emergency traffic

- **Assignments for individuals checking into the Net**

- Assign one station to listen on the Net's secondary frequency as well as monitor the primary frequency.

- **Status Checks from operators moving to assigned locations**

- **Monitoring the conduct of duties**

- Call stations that you have not heard from every 30 minutes(Welfare Check)

- **Message Handling**

- Operators submitting formal (written) traffic should use the ICS-213 message form for initiating messages.
- Reserve the primary frequency for Emergency Traffic and Tactical Traffic.
- Sending and Receiving operators with formal traffic should go to the secondary frequency to pass Health and Welfare or Routine messages.
- Tactical messages do not have to use the ICS-213 message form.

Radio net procedures used for emergency traffic

- Log all messages, including tactical (ICS-214)
 - The mantra in the EOC is to document everything.
- **Closing down Net Operations**
 - Alert the operators of the pending termination of Net and request those operators on remote assignment to advise their respective supervisors or managers of the action.
 - Conduct a final roll call and release each individual from further duties.
 - Turn in all Message logs, Message forms, Operator roll calls

IN SUMMARY

- ***Any information* about the exercise or real-time emergency operation is NOT to be provided by you.**
- **Your participation should include a written log of your communications. (ICS-214)**
- **The radio traffic during these events, both training exercise, or the actual emergency operation, should be as directed by the official we are providing radio communication for.**
- **Additionally, the timing of these communication messages should be as directed by the official over-seeing your point of operation.**
- **Use PLAIN LANGUAGE!**
- **Come prepared !**