



## Emergency Communications Tested in Lee County Precinct 3 Mobile Exercise

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Lee County Amateur Radio Emergency Services (ARES), LeeCARES, held another successful emergency communication exercise in Precinct 3 in Lee County.

On January 16, LeeCARES conducted an exercise in Precinct 3 to check the mobile radio signals from vehicle to vehicle. The goal of the exercise was to establish communications in a simulated emergency in which no repeater, cell phone, or home station were available.

We exercised direct communications between vehicles set at fixed locations within the Precinct, two of which had antennas raised 20 feet above the ground.

During the exercise, three roaming vehicles drove through Precinct 3's entire area. Each vehicle tested their radio communication signal with a radio operator located in Williamson County, as well as with each other from specified locations within Precinct 3.

LeeCARES members were able to successfully communicate directly with one another, and with the radio operator in Williamson County, in some locations. The locations that

were unable to communicate roving vehicle to roving vehicle were able to use the fixed vehicle stations as relay points to keep the communication constant.

On the Eastern side of the precinct, the communications quality was poor. Radio operators recorded their radio signal strength, or lack thereof, for each location.

LeeCARES is a step closer to narrowing down strategic locations for a 40foot or higher permanent mast with antenna that will allow mobile emergency responders to assist during a disaster with more reliable communications within the affected community where no other communication is possible.

LeeCARES is working toward determining how to improve the quality of communications in the eastern side of the Precinct.

We are also developing plans to repeat the exercise in all the precincts of Lee County.

LeeCARES members are exceedingly grateful to Precinct 3 Commissioner Alan Turner for his valuable input and advice, and to Blue VFD, Knobbs Springs Baptist Church, Adina Christian Church, and Tanglewood Baptist Church for allowing the use of their property.

The Lee County Amateur Radio Emergency Service® (LeeCARES) is a member of the American Radio Relay League. The purpose of LeeCARES is to furnish emergency communication when regular communication fails or is inadequate during natural or man-made disasters.

LeeCARES is made up of licensed radio amateur operators who have voluntarily registered their qualifications and equipment with their local ARES leadership, to assist with communications when disaster strikes.

To know more about Lee County ARES (LeeCARES) or emergency communications, please visit [LeeCARES.org](http://LeeCARES.org)