



National Emergency Communications Exercise

Lee County Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) participated in a national emergency communications exercise with The American Red Cross on Saturday, May 30, 2020. The exercise simulated complete failure of normal modes of communications such as, cellphones, internet, FAX, etc.

Locally, three amateur radio operators joined one hundred seventy-eight operators from 21 Texas counties in this exercise.

Operators sent 240 digital messages and Red Cross forms over amateur radio to district aggregating centers, who forwarded those documents over amateur radio to the national headquarters of The American Red Cross. The exercise is the first national exercise with ARES and The American Red Cross. This test allowed all participants to evaluate various methods to get the message through, especially when normal communication methods

are interrupted.

The Lee County Amateur Radio Emergency Service (LeeCARES) consists of Amateur Radio licensees who have voluntarily registered their qualifications and equipment for communications duty in the public service when disaster strikes. For more information on Lee County ARES please visit LeeCARES.org. ARES is an official organization of the Amateur Radio Relay League, ARRL, and serves disaster related agencies.