

Introduction to Lee County ARES Emergency Communication Plan
By KD5BJ

The general responsibility of the Amateur Radio Emergency Service is to be prepared to provide communications in an emergency as defined in Federal Communications Commission (FCC) rules and exists for the purpose of providing supplemental communications for the public, government and non-profit organizations involved in emergency and disaster preparedness, response and recovery.

ARES reaches the 50 states, as well as Puerto Rico and other island protectorates and territories. We are part of the South Texas Section that covers 97 counties and the agencies that serve those counties.

The hierarchy consist of the Section Manager, who is elected by the membership, who appoints the Section Emergency Coordinator, who appoints District Emergency Coordinators who appoint County Emergency Coordinators.

Responsibilities of the Section, District, and County coordinators is to develop, recruit, train, lead and direct ARES members, develop emergency plans and relationships with served agencies within their geographic area as necessary to meet anticipated communications emergencies.

Each emergency is different and flexibility is a necessity to provide response. As NC reminds during the preamble of each net, the primary responsibility of LeeCARES is to furnish emergency communications and public service communications to government and nongovernment entities, referred as Served Agencies, in the event of a natural or man-made disaster when regular communications fail or become inadequate, and for any other lawful purpose. Furthermore, LeeCARES is to offer training to ARES volunteers; provide instruction of the public; and participate in planned activities when requested by a Served Agency.

Upon request, LeeCARES will serve these jurisdictions and agencies:

- Incorporated jurisdictions in Lee County
- Unincorporated Areas or Populations under the authority of the Lee County Judge and the Lee County Office of Emergency Management
- Sheriff, Police, Fire Departments, and EMS in Lee County as directed by the Lee County Judge and Office of Emergency Management
- Williamson County ARES and Williamson County when they request assistance
- Hospitals and Nursing Homes
- Other agencies as requested by local authorities or ARRL leadership
- The District Emergency Coordinator, South Texas Section of the ARRL, when surrounding counties request assistance
- The National Weather Service
- The State of Texas Division of Emergency Management
- The Federal Emergency Management Agency
- The American Red Cross

Lee County Texas covers 634 square miles of which 92% is land and 0.8% is water. It is crossed by three major highways, U.S. Highway 77, U.S. Highway 290, and State Highway 21, and a railroad with heavy traffic of hazardous material being transported and it is home to about 17,500 people.

The Plan enlists all the threats. I remind us here of the highest threats, which are:

Threat	Likelihood	Area Impact	Likelihood of Communications Failure
Wild Fire	High	Local to Widespread	High
Flash Flooding	High	Local to Widespread	Medium
Tornado	Medium	Local to Widespread	High
Nuclear	Low	Widespread	High
Hostile Individual	High	Localized	Medium
Terrorism	Low	Localized	High
Civil Disorder	Low	Local to Widespread	High
Enemy Military Attack	Low	Widespread	High

The threats of weather include flooding, flash flooding, strong winds, ice storms, tropical storms, hurricanes, tornadoes, thunderstorms, severe thunderstorms, lightning, drought, and extreme heat or cold.

Hostile individuals or groups may engage in terrorist acts against private or government buildings, petrochemical and industrial sites, air, rail, highway transportation, and communication infrastructure such as cyberattacks. Conventional firearms, biological, nuclear, incendiary, chemical, explosives, and improved devices could be employed.

This is the ending of tonight's training. Next time we will speak of Concepts of Operations.
This is KD5BJ, back to net