

# ARES District 4 Net Script

June 01, 2017 (net date)

Script Rev 03-02-2017

Good Evening everyone and welcome to the South Texas District 4 ARES net. This is

TOM (name) K5BV (call)

ARES EC for ARANSAS and SAN PATRICIO COUNTIES  
(position e.g. member, AEC, etc. & County)

I will be the Net Control Station for tonight's net. First, if there are any stations with priority or emergency traffic please call

K5BV (call) at this time. UN-KEY

Either say "**nothing heard**" or handle the traffic immediately.

All hams in all Counties are welcome to check in to this net. You do not need to be an ARES member to participate in this net.

The purpose of ARES, the Amateur Radio Emergency Service, is to furnish emergency communications via amateur radio when regular means of communications fail or become inadequate during an emergency situation. ARES is sponsored by the ARRL, and supported by area radio clubs and individual hams. The only qualifications for ARES are that you possess an amateur radio license and you have a desire to help others. For more information or off-net questions please contact one of the following by email

Mark Dist. 4 EC - - - - - ad5ca@arrl.net  
Tom EC for Aransas & San Patricio County - - - - - k5bv@arrl.net  
Bob Asst EC for Aransas County- - - - - kf5cfu@arrl.net  
Jim EC for Live Oak County- - - - - w5im@arrl.net  
Harley EC for Kelberg County - - - - - kg5ayd@arrl.net

The net is currently scheduled monthly for the First Thursday at 8 PM. This is subject to change. We are currently using the 147.060 repeater in Corpus Christi with a (+) PLUS offset and a 107.2 tone, which is linked to the 146.980 repeater in George West, with a (-) MINUS offset and a 107.2 tone.

This net is being conducted for the purpose of providing training and information related to emergency communications; to serve as a forum for discussion; and to foster fellowship among Amateur Radio operators.

Next, are there any operators who would like to make announcement or provide information related to EmComm? This is not general check-in. Please State your call now.

Traditionally each year the Atlantic Hurricane season begins June 1<sup>st</sup> and ends November 30<sup>th</sup>. Today is Day 1 and we will be discussing being ready as being ready applies to ARES and EmComm.

Now Check-In. If the frequency has been clear a second or two key the MIC and s-l-o-w-l-y give your FCC call sign using ITU phonetics spoken clearly and slowly. Adding your name will be appreciated. Then UNKEY. Writing calls down takes a moment so allow a couple of seconds. Keep checking in and calls will be reviewed for clarifications, errors and missed calls. Please check-in with K5BV (Call) now.

*(note these actions)*

- *read each call back,*
- *ask for corrections*
- *ask for additional check-ins*

We will have comments after the tonight's material on \_\_\_\_\_. Please go ahead \_\_\_\_\_.

(call & UN-KEY)

*(after handed back)*

Thank you \_\_\_\_\_ *(presenter name)*.

Before we go down the list for comments if there any late check-ins please provide you call now.

*(again note these actions)*

- *read each call back,*
- *ask for corrections*

Net Control \_\_\_\_\_ *(your call)* will now go down the list for comments.

- *go down list of check-ins*
- *now have presenter give their comments)*

Final call for check-ins. Additional stations for the net please check-in now with \_\_\_\_\_ *(your call)*.

*(again note these actions)*

- *read each call back,*
- *ask for corrections*
- *ask for comments*

THIS IS NET. We had XX check-ins tonight. Thank you all for joining the ARES net tonight, and thanks to the repeater owners and mountaineers for the use of these fine repeaters. I am now closing the net and returning these repeaters back to normal amateur radio use. Stations may remain on frequency to make additional QSOs.

Net Control \_\_\_\_\_ *(your call)* Out.

FCC CALL

NAME

- 01 \_\_\_\_\_
- 02 \_\_\_\_\_
- 03 \_\_\_\_\_
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- \_\_\_\_\_ *(ENTER NET CONTROL)*
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## STAY READY FOR HURRICANES

Tonight will at the most be a primer for preparing ourselves to provide communications as an ARES volunteer. Many of you may be way ahead of this and hopefully when called on please share your knowledge.

Tonight will be a very narrow look at the big picture.

In the big picture I think of two categories where ARES EmComm support to our local agencies is needed.

One category is an unexpected loss of key infrastructure with no warning.

Examples might be a widespread loss of the electric power from single point failure without backup.

The other category is an event with warning and time to prepare. Tonight we will assume that a tropical cyclone is developing or entering the Gulf of Mexico moving toward the South Texas coast. Almost always tropical threats events develop over many hours to several days extending to more than a week.

Tonight let's look at two scenarios associated with tropical cyclones.

The First Scenario is with an approaching tropical cyclone.

From the ARES Field Manual, What To Do First In Case Of An Emergency

- 1) Check that you and your family are safe and secure before you respond as an ARES volunteer.
- 2) Check that your property is safe and secure before you respond as an ARES volunteer.
- 3) Monitor local repeaters.
- 4) Follow the instructions you receive from the ARES leadership.
- 5) Contact your local Emergency Coordinator, or his/her designee, for further instructions.

In preparing for a tropical event the list in the Field Guide of what to do first, numbers 1 through 5 may be backward for tonight's discussion.

Assume we have an approaching tropical cyclone and as typical, 50% to 75% of the Texas Gulf Coast will be under a Watch in the early predictions.

The 5<sup>th</sup> item, contact your local ARES Emergency Coordinator should happen first. Let them know your anticipated plans. That is if you will be able to report to an EOC and stick out the event.

Keep in mind that if an evacuation is ordered it will not be possible to then move records, family members and non-replaceable personal property to a safe location and afterward return to the threatened area before the threat comes ashore.

Bucking the evacuation flow and trying to re-enter an area being evacuated is not going to work.

A quick summary - An ARES Member who has agreed to support an EOC during a pending threat must execute any evacuation of family and property and be back in place at the EOC before an evacuation order is issued.

My personal experience has been that when an evacuation is pending cell phones and wired phone service degrades because of heavy usage. ARES planning will frequently need to be by radio using simplex, repeaters and Winlink.

### What Else May Happen?

One more Scenario.

Assume that the threat area was narrowed and even though we were ready to evacuate our area early there was no need to evacuate or we returned while the tropical cyclone remained over water. The tropical cyclone became a Category 2 hurricane and came ashore south of Brownsville. A large area of South Texas sustained damage as the storm slowed movement as landfall. Similar to Hurricane Dolly, 2008.

ARES operators in the areas that sustained damage continue to support their local government and agencies.

Major roads are close to being opened as debris such as nails, fallen power lines and trees are being cleared.

There is a curfew sunset to sunrise in the areas without electric power, water and telephones.

Communicators are being requested from out of the area that sustained damage.

- 1) ARES members who stayed behind need to be relieved to look after their own family and property.
- 2) Points of Distribution with food, ice and tarpaulins need communicators.
- 3) Communication is needed to coordinate clean-up of residential debris with some hazardous waste.
- 4) Provide communications for staff operating shelters used by returning residents and volunteers.

ARES communicators supporting recovery will be rotated beginning noon Sunday to noon Wednesday. Then alternate with communicators working noon Wednesday to noon Sunday. This may continue for two weeks.

Based on the two Scenarios, one leaving evacuating early and returning early to support an EOC.

The other Scenario, supporting an area that sustained damage and needs relief communicators.

I will go down the check-in list for comments.

What questions do each of you have?

Do you feel sufficiently trained to provide communications support?

Basically could you provide the anticipated communications skills?

Could you assemble a kit of personal supplies for 2 or 3 nights in a shelter?