

Amateur Radio Emergency Service

Emergency Plan for Dale County Alabama

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Dale County Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) is composed of FCC-licensed Amateur Radio operators who have voluntarily registered their capabilities and equipment for public service communications duty.

1.2 Under Federal regulations, Amateur Radio public service communications are furnished without compensation of any kind.

1.3 The Dale County ARES functions under this Emergency Plan under the direction of the Dale County Emergency Coordinator (EC), who is appointed by the ARRL Alabama Section Emergency Coordinator in consultation with the District Emergency Coordinator. An assistant EC will be appointed by the EC for assistance and to function as EC in his absence.

1.4 The Dale County EC may appoint Assistant EC as needed for the ARES to function efficiently.

2. PURPOSE

2.1 This plan is to provide a written guide containing the minimum information that would be needed in an emergency. Each emergency is different and flexibility to provide an adequate response to each is a necessity.

2.2 The primary responsibility of the Dale County ARES is to furnish communications in the event of a natural disaster, when regular communications fail or are inadequate.

2.3 All drills, training and instruction shall be carried out to insure readiness to respond quickly in providing effective amateur emergency communications whenever an occasion may arise.

2.4 The following agencies could be served during a communications emergency: Dale County Chapter, American Red Cross; Dale County Medical Center; Civil Preparedness; Ozark City Hall; Ozark Fire Department; Ozark Police Department; Dale County Sheriff; The Salvation Army; and any other agencies requesting assistance from the ARES.

3. ACTIVATING THE PLAN

3.1 Any member of the Dale County ARES who, for any reason suspects a communication emergency exists, should monitor the assigned net frequency, 146.98 Mhz, for activity.

3.2 If local telephone service is available, the EC and/or assistant ECs should be notified by telephone.

3.3 In an emergency in which Amateur Radio might serve the community, Amateur Radio operators may be alerted by any city, Red Cross, Emergency Management Agency, or similar official notifying the Emergency Coordinator.

4. ARES MOBILIZATION PROCEDURE

4.1 Local broadcast station WOZK/WOAB will be contacted by the EC or his representative, as possible, for spot announcements alerting ARES members.

4.2 If telephone service is available the telephone tree is activated.

4.3 Upon the awareness or notification that a communications emergency exists, members of the Dale County ARES will call into the Dale County Emergency Net on 146.980, the Ozark FM repeater with 146.52 FM simplex as an alternate frequency. The Ozark repeater has emergency back up power and should operate for about 24 hours commercial power.

4.4 Mobile units are activated and dispatched.

4.5 The EC will assume net control or delegate another station as net control station (NCS). Control will be from Dale County E.M.A. Emergency Operating Center (EOC). This is in the basement of the old post office building. The call sign of the Dale County E.O.C. is **K4OZK**. This station will be manned by proper personnel and will assume net control duties and will coordinate communications with local police and fire units.

4. **K4OZK** is designated as a "key station" and will be extensively utilized during a communications emergency. Key Stations have full emergency power capability with relief operators assigned to ensure continuous operation.

5. DUTIES OF THE NCS

5.1 The Dale County Emergency Net will be called to order by the NCS.

5.2 Members of the Dale County ARES are checked into the net from their mobiles and home stations to await further instructions.

5.3 Liaison stations to the following National Traffic System nets will be assigned:

- Alabama Emergency Net, 3.965 MHz, 2330 UTC
- Others as required

A liaison station is also sent to 147.10 Mhz or 147.30 Mhz FM repeater link for liaison with the statewide Intercity Link System.

5.4 Mobiles are dispatched as needed to the Dale County Chapter, American Red Cross Headquarters and Dale County Medical Center and any other agencies where they are required.

5.5 Operators of home stations not on emergency power who are free to operate the "key stations" are coordinated to operate them as required.

6. OPERATIONS

6.1 All written messages should be in standard ARRL form.

6.2 All messages must be signed by the official who originates them, with his or her title, taking responsibility for the contents of the message.

6.3 Message procedures of EMERGENCY, Priority, Welfare and Routine, as defined on ARRL Form FSD-3, shall be used on all messages.

6.4 Stations do not transmit unless invited to do so by net control. The only exception to this is for a station having EMERGENCY traffic.

6.5 Amateur radio operators are trained communicators. When acting in that capacity, they are not interpreters, evaluators or field commanders. Their purpose is to transmit messages given them by responsible officials.

6.6 By this plan, amateurs are prohibited from transmitting personal observations or opinions, unless specifically requested by a responsible official. This avoids misinterpretation by people who may be listening to the net, for example on scanners.

7. TESTS AND TRAINING

7.1 An annual exercise should be planned and held in conjunction with the national Simulated Emergency Test.

7.2 At the discretion of the Emergency Coordinator, the activation procedure should be tested unannounced, with response only to net check-ins, as he deems necessary to insure its efficient operation.

7.3 The emergency response group will meet monthly on -----(ie. third thursday at 7:00 PM) at the Dale County EOC.

7.4 A bi-monthly ARES / Skywarn net will meet on the first Monday night of the month on 146.98 Mhz (Ozark repeater) and on the third Monday night of the month on 145.39 Mhz (Enterprise repater). The purpose of these nets are to help maintain readiness and training of local amateur radio operators..

8. SIGNATORY AGENCIES

Agencies that may be served under this emergency operations plan should be signatory to it and receive a copy of it to insure their understanding of its operation and definitions.

<u>Agency</u>	<u>Official</u>	<u>Phone</u>	<u>Date</u>
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(here list all served officials)

Appendix 1. Authorized Officials

(List officials, by name and office who are authorized to activate this emergency operations plan.)

- Dale County Emergency Management Coordinator
- Dale County Sheriff
- Dale County Commission chairman
- Ozark Mayor
- Ozark Chief of Police
- Ozark Fire Chief
- Chief Administrator, Dale Medical Center
- Dale County Red Cross Administrator

- Mayors and Chiefs of Police of surrounding cities and towns (Ariton, Daleville, Midland City, Newton, Pinckard, etc.)

Appendix 2. Amateur authorized activators.

1. (name-telephone)
etc.

Appendix 3. Alerting System

telephone tree

Appendix 4. All Members of Dale County EC

Appendix 5. Other miscellaneous information for Amateurs.