



## Utah Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Plan

In the event of a significant and wide-spread (or large-scale) event that threatens a great number of people (floods, storms, earthquake, pandemic) or a large geographical area (such as a fire), Amateur Radio operators can be a significant resource for response and recovery. This plan ONLY applies to emergency events. This plan allows EVERY licensed Amateur Radio operator the opportunity to be involved in an emergency response.

Activation of this plan can be done by ANY Amateur Radio organization upon the request of a government official/agency or private group (such as the American Red Cross) with the caution that the Amateur Radio organization should exercise due diligence to ensure the activation meets the criteria of a "significant" and "wide-spread" event that will stress or has the potential to overwhelm normal communications channels.

The activating Amateur Radio organization has the responsibility of conducting (or overseeing) the establishment of an information net (InfoNet). As such, various Amateur Radio groups should prepare by identifying and training select net control operators (NCS) in advance. The second responsibility for the activating Amateur Radio organization is to identify an emergency frequency coordinator. These potential emergency frequency coordinators should ideally be coordinated with the ARRL's frequency coordinator IN ADVANCE. Minimally these individuals must be familiar with spectrum use and assignment, propagation and with local repeater use (nets, coverage, ownership, etc.).

When this plan is activated, EVERY Amateur Radio operator is encouraged to monitor the information network frequency and offer assistance AS ASKED by the NCS. The most important skill is the ability to LISTEN, LISTEN, LISTEN. As tactical nets are established on frequencies assigned by the emergency frequency coordinator, the NCS can direct volunteers to these frequencies.

The purpose of the information net (InfoNet) is to collect and disseminate VERIFIED information to those listening. This could include weather data, road conditions, shelter locations, summaries of media reports, status of commercial power, staging areas, locations of supplies, requests for volunteers with specific expertise, etc. This is NOT a tactical or staging net. The NCS will not conduct roll calls or keep lists of stations who have checked in. Generally stations will not "check in" with "no traffic" as this simply wastes air time. Stations may check in with VERIFIED information such as "Interstate 15 is blocked at 4500 South as of

1400 hours” or “commercial power has been out in Magna since 0730 hours.” As needed the NCS may ask for lists of undamaged roads into a particular area to assist agencies moving and staging emergency vehicles. Emergency traffic of any kind is, obviously, encouraged.

When a group (such as CERT, Red Cross, shelter, church, staging area manager, search/rescue, etc.) has a specific assignment and geographic area, the emergency frequency coordinator will determine a simplex or repeater frequency for use. The group MUST have enough operators to justify a frequency assignment AND must have an NCS. The InfoNet will keep track of such assignments (location, purpose, frequency and NCS). The InfoNet can regularly update listeners as to what activities are occurring and what frequencies various tactical nets are using. When the tactical assignment is complete, the frequency is released for assignment by the emergency frequency coordinator.

The following areas and InfoNet frequencies have been identified as part of this plan. The areas selected reflect consideration for the potential of large geographical impact or areas of large population. (Please check current Utah VHF Society information for location, offset and subaudible tone of listed repeaters or systems.)

<u>AREA</u>	<u>FREQUENCY</u>
Statewide	Intermountain Intertie: 147.18, 145.27, 147.02, 145.49, 146.80, 146.94
Cache County	146.72
Box Elder County	145.49
Weber/Davis	147.04
Salt Lake/Tooele	146.62 or 146.94
Summit/Wasatch	147.36
Utah County	146.76
West Central	146.94 (Millard, Beaver, Iron counties)
Washington County	146.82
East Central	Sinbad system: 145.31, 146.76, 147.06, 147.08 (Carbon, Emery, Grand, Wayne counties)
Central	Skyline system: 146.66, 146.86, 147.10 (Sanpete, Sevier, Piute counties)
Other areas	Monitor 146.52 simplex

Amateur Radio operators should have their radios programmed for the InfoNet repeaters in their area. Amateur Radio organizations can assist preparation by educating operators on net procedures, preparation measures and providing in-depth information on how this plan can function in a large-scale emergency event.