



Rowlett ARES®

Emergency Communications Plan

North Texas Section, Western Gulf Division

Revision – 02/July 17, 2014

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES®) is a field organization of the American Radio Relay League (ARRL). It is composed of FCC licensed amateur radio operators who are trained emergency communicators, volunteering their personal time, skill and equipment, to serve in the public interest. The Rowlett ARES® group is focused on providing service to Rowlett, Texas and the surrounding area. Amateur Radio operators living within or near Rowlett, Texas are eligible for participation in Rowlett ARES®.

1.2 Under federal regulations, no compensation of any kind may be received in return for the performance of communication services by amateur radio. Similarly, the contents of messages handled by amateur radio operators are not divulged to unauthorized persons.

1.3 The Rowlett ARES® functions under this Emergency Plan and the direction of the Rowlett ARES® Emergency Coordinator (EC) who is appointed by the ARRL Section Emergency Coordinator (SEC) in consultation with the District Emergency Coordinator (DEC).

1.4 The EC may appoint assistant EC's as needed for the ARES® group to function efficiently.

1.5 The Rowlett ARES® is an Affiliated Program of the Rowlett Citizens Corps Council (RCCC) and will operate within the provisions of existing RCCC By-Laws, unless superseded by ARRL restrictions.

2. PURPOSE

2.1 The purpose of 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 Rowlett ARES® is to furnish communications in the event of a natural or man-made disaster, when regular communications fail or are inadequate.

2.3 All drills, training and instruction shall be carried out to ensure an ability to respond quickly to provide effective amateur emergency communications whenever an occasion may arise.

2.4 The following agencies could be served during a communications emergency: Emergency Operations Centers; American Red Cross; Hospitals; Fire Departments; Police Department; Sheriff's Departments; Salvation Army; and any other agencies requesting assistance from Rowlett ARES®.

2.5 Rowlett ARES® may also be requested to serve the Texas State Division of Emergency Management, or the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

2.6 Rowlett ARES® will provide mutual aid support for other counties or ARES® districts at the request of North Texas Section DEC's or the Section Emergency Coordinator.

2.7 Rowlett ARES® may provide communications support at public events conducted by non-profit organizations in non-emergency situations.

2.8 The Rowlett ARES® group will support the Skywarn program of the National Weather Service (NWS). A request from a served agency may or may not be required for SkyWarn support.

3. MEMBERSHIP

3.1 A radio operator shall have a current amateur radio license issued by the Federal Communications Commission. (F.C.C.)

3.2 A storm spotter must pass the Skywarn Basic and Advanced spotter training class sponsored by National Weather Service (NWS).

3.3 The EC may add additional membership requirements as deemed necessary or in conjunction with the primary served agency. The West Gulf Division ARES® Standardized Training Plan will be used for all members. Intermediate – level status must be achieved within six months of join date (see West Gulf Division ARES® Standardized Training Plan).

3.4 All Rowlett ARES® members will participate in a minimum of four monthly training nets and one meeting annually to maintain membership.

4. TRAINING

4.1 All Rowlett ARES® members will achieve Intermediate-level status within six months of join date. See Rowlett ARES® Training Workbook for requirements.

4.2 In-field training will take place once annually at a predetermined location(s) with a purpose and plan for the event.

4.3 Continuing, monthly training nets should be conducted on the group's local repeater.

5. ACTIVATING THE PLAN

5.1 Any member of the Rowlett ARES® who for any reason suspects a communications emergency exists should monitor local repeaters for activity. Local repeaters that should be monitored include:

Primary repeater – KR5EXP, 444.775, 110.9, +

Secondary repeater – AB5U, 147.390, 85.4, +

Simplex – 146.55

5.2 If local telephone service is available, the EC and/or Assistant EC's should be notified by telephone.

5.3 In an emergency in which Amateur Radio might serve the community, EC's and AEC's may be alerted by any City, County, State, Red Cross, or similar served agency official. The Rowlett ARES® may also be alerted by RCCC leadership.

5.4 The EC, AEC, or designated ARES® member upon evaluation of the situation will activate the mobilization plan. The DEC and/or SEC is to be notified upon emergency activations.

6. ARES MOBILIZATION PROCEDURE

- 6.1 The EC or his representative will send out via phone or repeater announcements alerting ARES® members.
- 6.2 If telephone service is available, the telephone tree is activated.
- 6.3 Upon the awareness or notification that a communications emergency exists, members of the Rowlett ARES® will call into the Rowlett ARES® Emergency Net on the 444.775, 110.9, + repeater with 146.55 simplex as an alternate frequency or as specified.
- 6.4 Mobile units are activated and dispatched.
- 6.5 The EC/AEC/NCS will assume net control or delegate another station as net control station (NCS). Control will be from the Rowlett Emergency Operations Center or other location as designated by the EC. This station is designated as a "NCS" and will be extensively utilized during a communication emergency. NCS stations shall have full emergency power capability with relief operators assigned to ensure continuous operation.

7. DUTIES OF NCS

- 7.1 The Rowlett ARES® Emergency Net will be called to order by the NCS.
- 7.2 Members of the Rowlett ARES® are checked into the net from their mobiles and home stations to wait for further instructions.
- 7.3 Liaison stations to the following National Traffic System nets will be assigned: NTX section Texas Traffic Net/ARES Net: 7285 MHz (day), 3873 MHz (night). NTX Net: 7277.5 MHz if activated.
- 7.4 Mobiles will be dispatched to the local hospitals, and other agencies as needed.
- 7.5 Operators of home stations not on emergency power are coordinated to effectively operate the "Net Control Station (NCS)" as required.

8. OPERATIONS

- 8.1 All written messages must be in standard ARRL form (Radiogram) or IC-213 as required.
- 8.2 All messages must be signed by the originating official, along with his title, verifying responsibility for their contents.
- 8.3 Message precedence of EMERGENCY. Priority, Routine, and Health and Welfare, as defined on ARRL Form FSD-3, shall be used on all messages.
- 8.4 Stations do not transmit unless invited to do so by net control.

The only exception to this is for a station having EMERGENCY traffic.

9. DRILLS, TESTS AND ALERTS

- 9.1 An annual operational exercise will be conducted in conjunction with the nationwide ARRL Simulated Emergency Test.
- 9.2 The Rowlett ARES® will regularly supply public safety communications in conjunction with local events.
- 9.3 The Rowlett ARES® Emergency Net meets the first Monday of the month, 2100 CST, 444.775, 110.9, +. Alternate repeaters or modes will be noted prior to scheduled net.
- 9.4 At the discretion of the EC, Rowlett ARES® will be activated unannounced via the repeater or phone tree at least once per year.

10. LOCAL AND STATEWIDE FREQUENCIES:

VHF:

To be listed

HF:

Daytime 7.285 (ARES emergency traffic only)

7.290 (Health and Welfare traffic)

7277.5 (NTX HF Net)

Night 3.873 (ARES emergency traffic only)

3.922 (Health and Welfare traffic)

Packet Winlink Node: to be announced

ARES Pactor PMBOs: to be announced

11. DEFINITIONS

EOC	Emergency Operation Center
IC	Incident Commander
ICS	Incident Command System
ICP	Incident Command Post
JIC	Joint Information Center
NIMS	National Incident Management System
RACES	Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service
SOC	State Operations Center
SOP	Standard Operating Procedure
TXSG	Texas State Guard
TOC	Tactical Operating Center
WADA	Wide Area Damage Assessment

12. POINTS OF CONTACT

Rowlett ARES® Emergency Coordinator:	Chris Paul – NS2P PO Box 358 Rowlett, TX 75030 Phone: 972-979-8764 email: NS2PTX@gmail.com
Rowlett ARES® Asst. Emergency Coordinator:	Frank Seigler – KE5ETD P.O. Box 1662 Rowlett, TX 75030 Phone: 214-908-8417 email: Fseigler@Verizon.net
North Texas Section Emergency Coordinator:	John Galvin – N5TIM 1854 San Leanna Dr. Allen, TX 75013 Phone: 469-556-8756 email: N5TIM@ARRL.net