GULF COAST DISTRICT EMERGENCY COORDINATOR'S

MEETING

MAY 2025

OBJECTIVE

To recognize, know, train and guide the District's personnel starting with the Ham community and continuing to other like organizations.
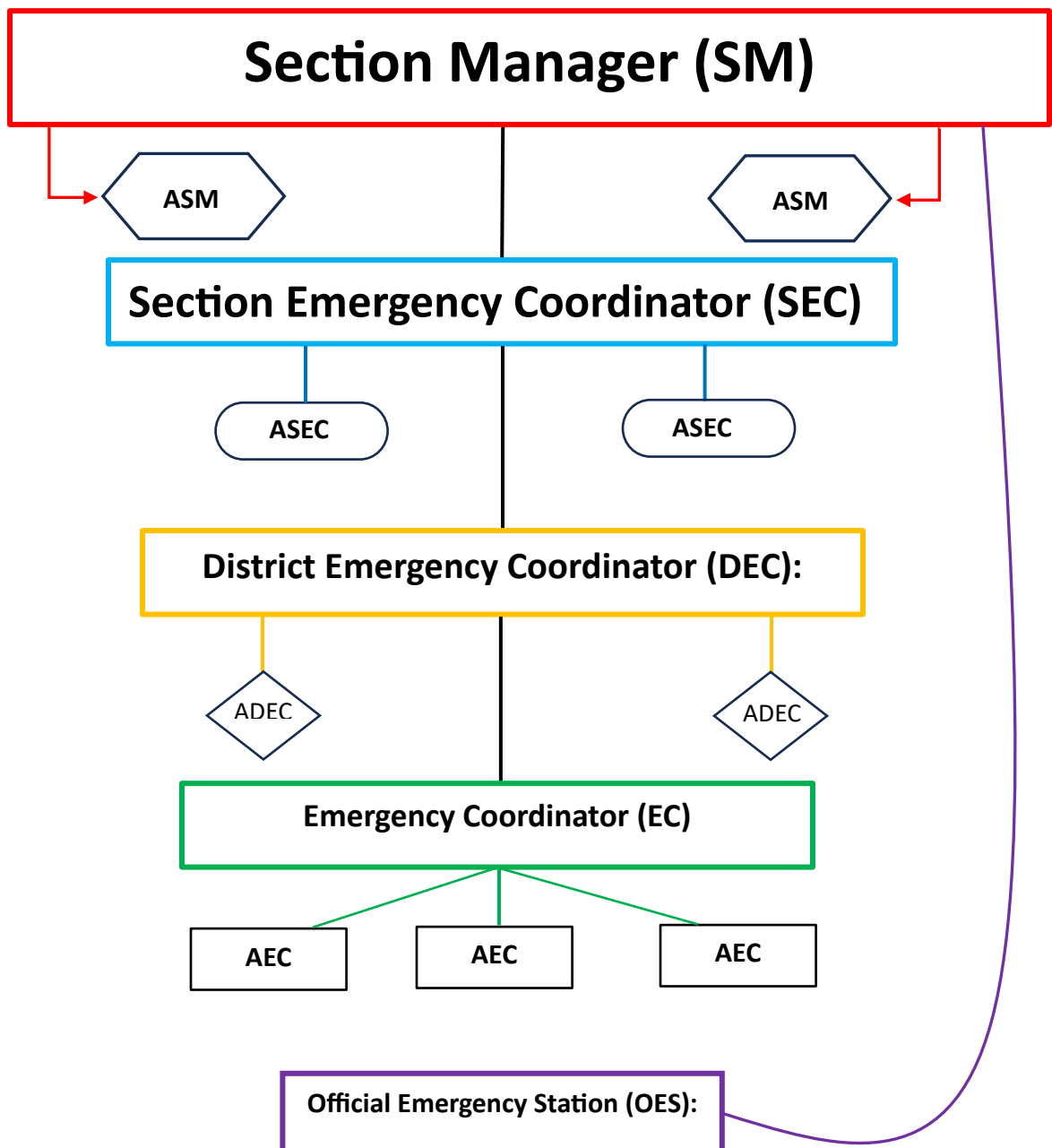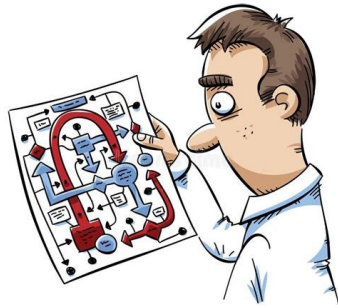
Look Professional

Act Professional

Be Professional
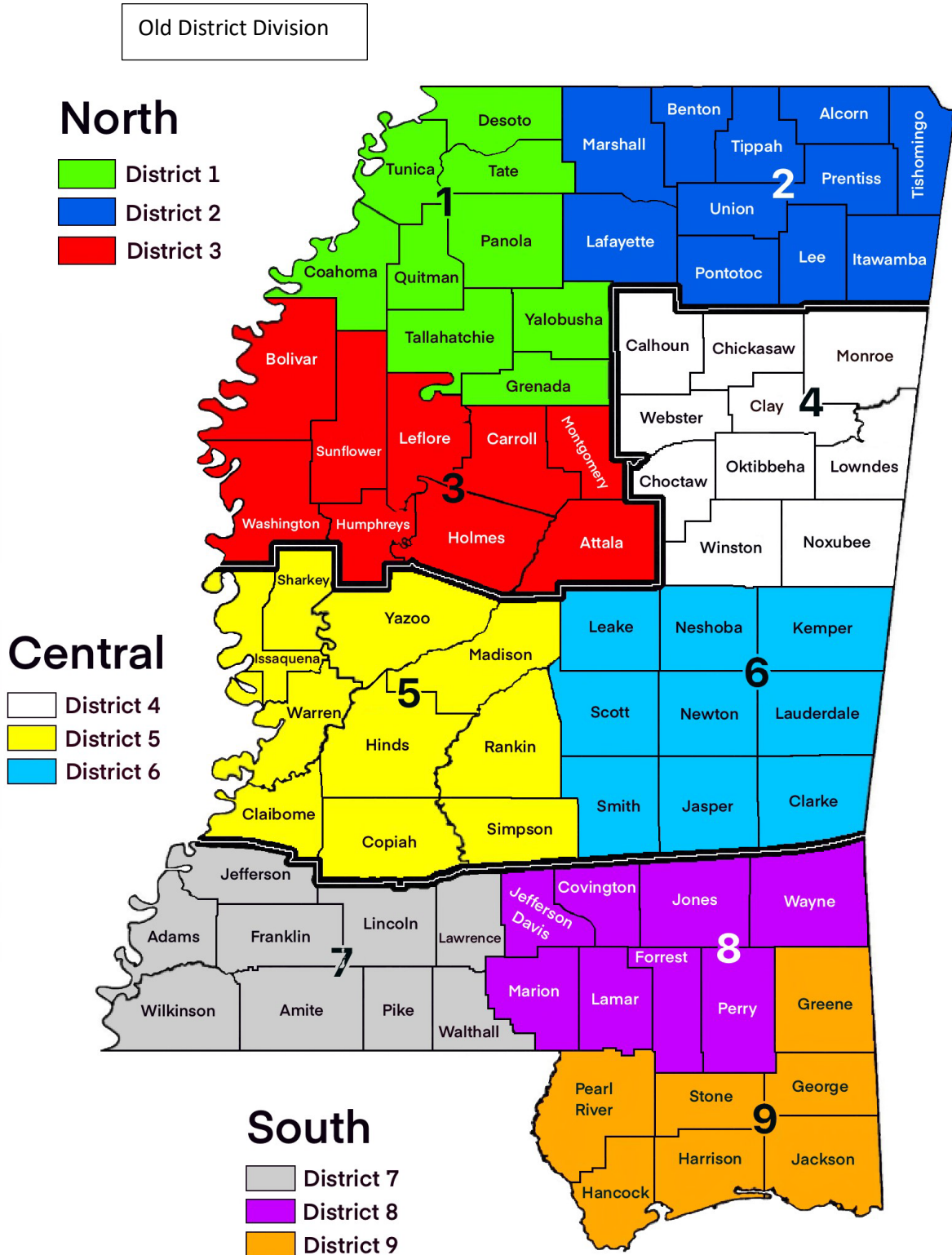
Smell Professional

Section Manager (SM)

ASM

ASM

Section Emergency Coordinator (SEC)

ASEC

ASEC

District Emergency Coordinator (DEC):

ADEC

ADEC

Emergency Coordinator (EC)

AEC

AEC

AEC

Official Emergency Station (OES):

Old District Division

North

- District 1 (green)
- District 2 (blue)
- District 3 (red)

Central

- District 4 (white)
- District 5 (yellow)
- District 6 (cyan)

South

- District 7 (gray)
- District 8 (purple)
- District 9 (orange)

May 2025

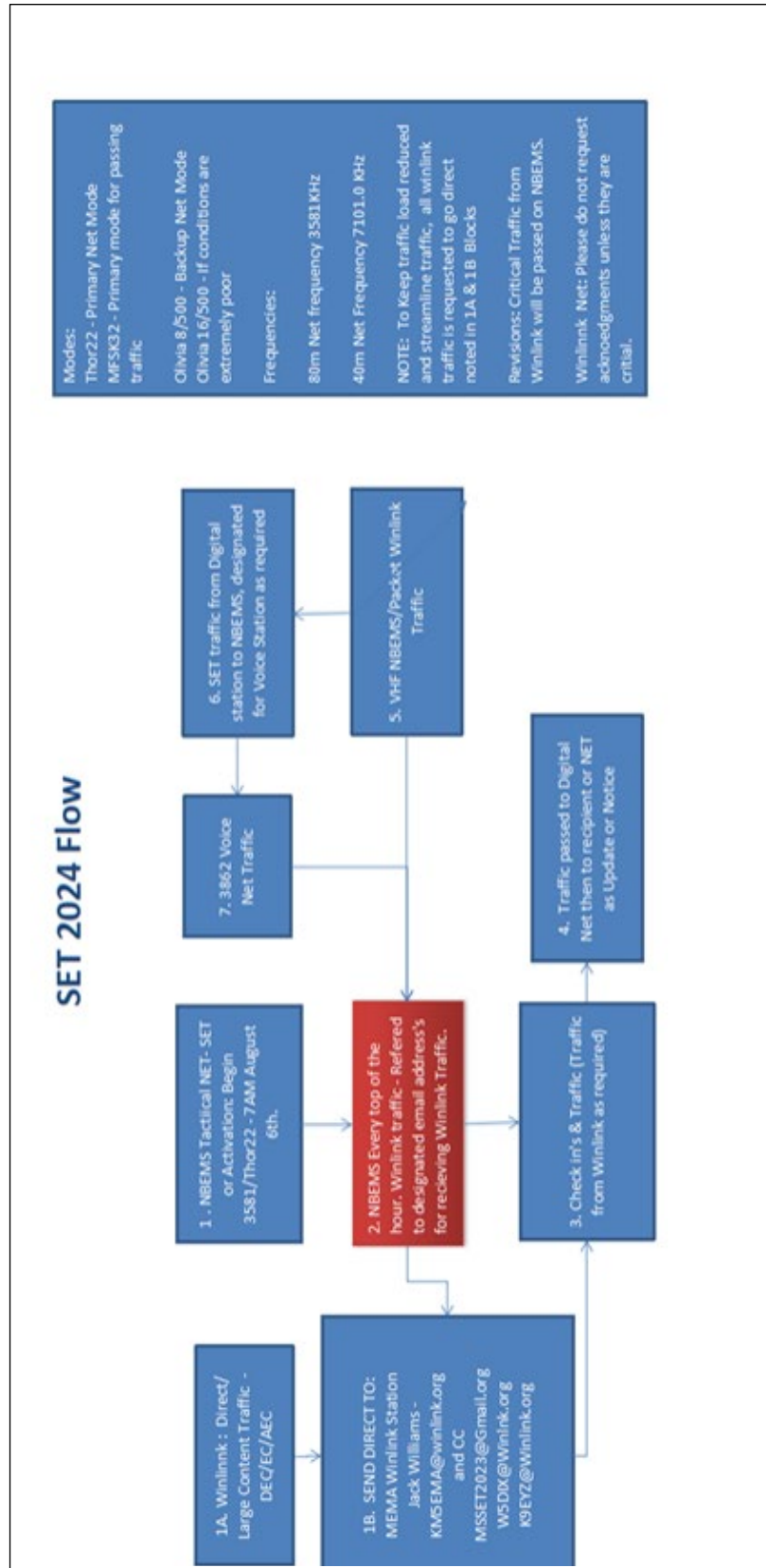## Mississippi Section ARES <u>Digital</u> Operations

K9EYZ was Presenter

- Section level ARES digital operations are primarily on HF
- Official operations are limited to N.B.E.M.S. and Winlink at this time

N.B.E.M.S.

- NBEMS is an acronym for the Narrowband Emergency Messaging Service
- Primarily a Chat-like interface with ability to send formatted messages
- Requires operators be present and at the radio at sending and receiving end
- Operates using FREE software from the FLDIGI software suite
  - o fldigi – the main modem provider for the software suite
  - o flmsg – rapidly formats messages (NWS, ICS forms, radiograms, etc.)
  - o flwrap – encapsulates messages and creates a "checksum" to ensure message delivery
  - o flarq – semiautomated station to station messaging using ARQ
  - o flamp – multicast software delivery to many stations at once
  - o flrig – not officially a part of the suite, but may facilitate rig control for NBEMS

Winlink (AKA – Winlink Express, Winlink 2000, RMS Express)

- Store and Retrieve software similar to POP3 email specifically for Hams
- FREE software, but registration gets rid of nag screen
- Sending client stations connect to RMS Stations, which connect to CMS Servers to store sent messages
- Receiving client stations connect to RMS Stations, which to connect to CMS Servers to retrieve messages
- RMS stations are distant stations with internet access to connect to the centralized CMS Servers
- CMS servers are a series of redundant email-like servers scattered across the world
- Stations may send mail even when intended recipient is not on-the-air
- Receiving stations may pick up messages at convenience
- RMS Stations are located all over the world on many different bands, frequencies and modes
  - o Bands: UHF, VHF, HF, and DO NOT FORGET TELNET/Internet!
  - o Modes: ARDOP, Packet, Vara (HF), Vara FM (VHF/UHF), Pactor, Robust Packet
- Sending and Receiving stations DO NOT have to use the same RMS Station access point or mode
- Messages may be addressed to any Winlink registered Ham OR ANY EMAIL ADDRESS ON ANY DOMAIN THROUGHOUT THE WORLD
- Messages may be free text OR formatted messages
- Peer to Peer operations (do not require internet) are possible
  - o Direct station to station connection
  - o Requires only that sending station be at the operating location
  - o Receiving station may be set up and left "online" to receive
  - o Frequency and mode must be agreed upon in advance

- WIDELY ADOPTED BY MANY HAM EMERGENCY GROUPS AND SERVED AGENCIES

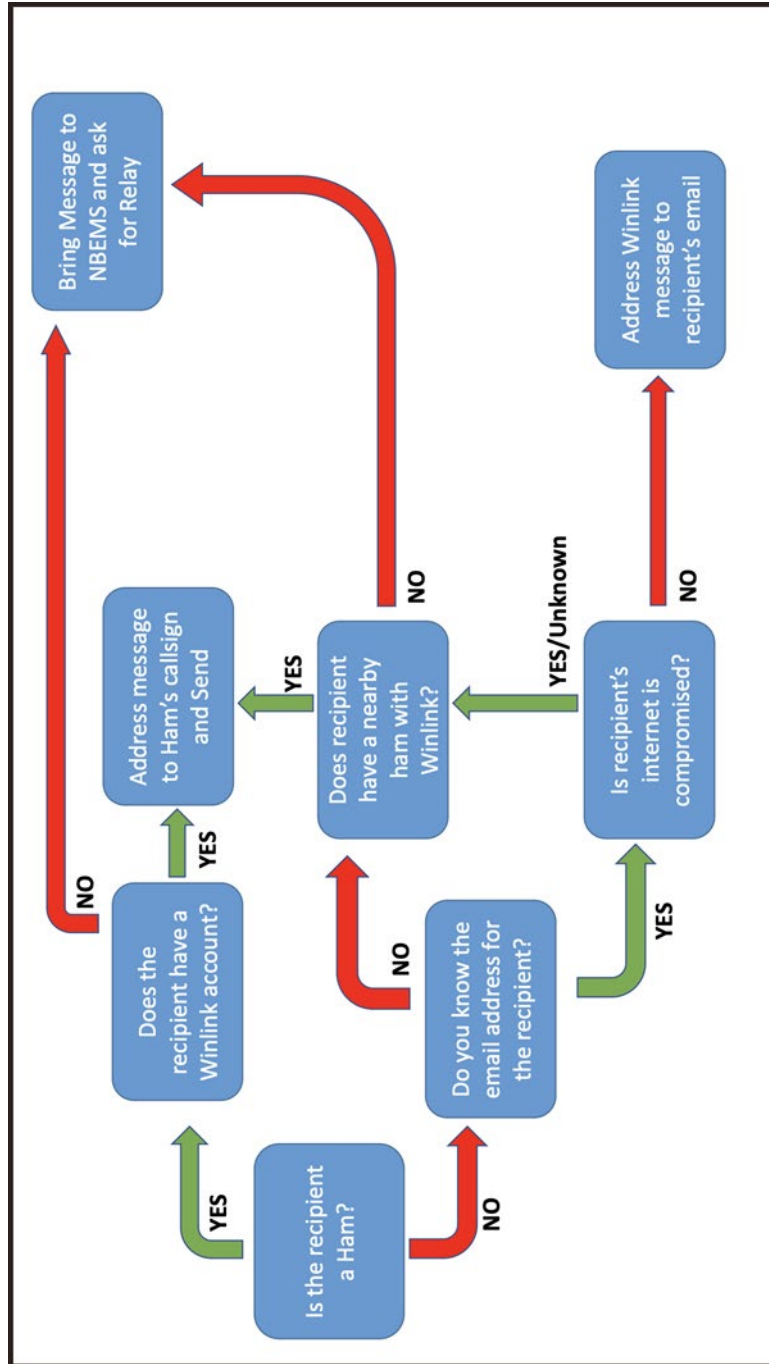Mississippi Section ARES Digital Operations

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Section Wide ARES Digital operations

- NBEMS is used as the primary Command and Control Net for digital traffic
- Winlink is used as the primary messaging software for digital traffic
- NBEMS is a secondary messaging service
- Stations with traffic to send are requested to use Winlink to send DIRECTLY to known receiving callsign OR directly to a known internet email address when available
- When message recipient does not have a known Ham callsign or email address, messages should be brought to NBEMS for relay instructions
- County ARES groups are strongly encouraged to have at least one station participate in MS-NBEMS Net

Frequencies and Modes

- NBEMS
  - 3581.00 KHz; Mode=Thor22; Waterfall center = 1000Hz
  - Alternate 7101.0 KHz; Mode Thor22; Waterfall = 1000Hz
  - Additional modes used depending on conditions:
    - MFSK16; Olivia 8/500; Olivia 16/500
- Winlink
  - Standard RMS Gateway and CMS Server
    - ANY RMS Gateway available to the sending or receiving station's operating privileges and rig's capabilities
  - P2P
    - Any frequency and mode agreed upon by both parties and within the operating privileges

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SET 2024 Flow

Modes:

Thor22 - Primary Net Mode

MFSK32 - Primary mode for passing traffic

Olivia 8/500 - Backup Net Mode

Olivia 16/500 - If conditions are extremely poor

Frequencies:

80m Net frequency 3581 KHz

40m Net Frequency 7101.0 KHz

NOTE: To Keep traffic load reduced and streamline traffic, all winlink traffic is requested to go direct noted in 1A & 1B Blocks

Revisions: Critical Traffic from Winlink will be passed on NBEMS.

Winlink Net: Please do not request acknoedgments unless they are critial.

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1. NBEMS Tacttical NET- SET or Activation: Begin 3581/Thor22 - 7AM August 6th.

1A. Winlinnk :: Direct/ Large Content Traffic - DIE C/EC/AEC

1B. SEND DIRECT TO: MEMA Winlink Station Jack Williams - KM5EMA@winlink.org and CC MSSET2023@Gmail.org W5DIX@Winlink.org K9EY2@Winlink.org

2. NBEMS Every top of the hour. Winlink traffic - Refered to designated email address's for recieving Winlink Traffic.

3. Check in's & Traffic (Traffic from Winlink as required)

4. Traffic passed to Digital Net then to recipient or NET as Update or Notice

5. VHF NBEMS/Packet Winlink Traffic

6. SET traffic from Digital station to NBEMS, designated for Voice Station as required

7. 3862 Voice Net Traffic

EOD

County Contact and Information

➢ **Harrison County ARES**
  ❖ Team Members
  • EC: Bob Jackson, WX5RJ
    - Email: bob.wx5rj@gmail.com
  • AEC: Brenda Jackson, KI5OWU
  • AEC: Bobby Allen, KF5BA
  • EMA Director Harrison County: Matt Stratton
  ❖ Repeater
  • ARES VHF 146.835 (-) PL 136.5   FM & C4FM non-WiresX
  • DMR UHF 444.9625+ (email kd4vvz@pm.me for TalkGroup info) (also can be accessed through BrandMeister)
  ❖ Modes of Operation
  • VHF FM Digital
  • HF Voice multi-ban
  • HF Digital Multi-band
  • VHF DMR via Hotspot
  • Remote capability both VHF Multimode and HF Multimode
  • VHF DMR via Hotspot
  • Remote capability both VHF Multimode and HF Multimode

➢ **George County / Greene County ARES**
  ❖ Team Members
  • EC: General Dailey, KD4VVZ
    - Email: kd4vvz@pm.me
    - Phone: 904-955-2160
  • Lead AEC George/Greene: Brent Albrecht, KG5AZM
    - Email: brentalbrecht.ms@gmail.com
    - Phone: 601-394-8830
  • AEC Greene: Rusty Dixon, AE5QP
    - Email: secddickson@tds.net
    - Phone: 601-394-8830
  • PIO MS Section Gulf Coast: Delisa Albrecht, KG5AZL
    - Email: banddalbrecht@gmail.com
    - Phone: 769-475-0501
  ❖ Repeaters
  • George County ARES
    - ARES Repeater 147.120 (+) PL 135.5   FM/C4FM mixed mode (Wire-X in the near future)
    - Lucedale Cross Band Repeater TX-145.330 PL 136.5 and RX-444.800 PL 136.5 FM/C4FM mixed mode
    - Lucedale DMR Repeater 444.200 (+), Color Code 1
      Note: Current Talk Group information can be found at the George County ARES website: https://gcmsares.org/
      Note: (email kd4vvz@pm.me for TalkGroup info) (also can be accessed through BrandMeister)

- Greene County ARES
  - Leakesville 147.000 (+) 136.5 PL FM/C4FM mixed mode (currently no Wires-X)
  - Leakesville 444.225 (+) 136.5 PL

  ❖ Modes of Operations
  - HF WinLink
  - HF voice
  - VHF analog & digital C4FM voice
  - UHF digital voice DMR stand alone or via internet

➢ Stone County ARES
  ❖ Team Members
  - EC: Tim Purvis, N5UDK
    - Email: n5udk.tim@gmail.com   or   tim@39577.com
    - Phone: 601-528-1222
  - AEC: Woody Poolson, N6PJW
    - Email: woody@nosloop.com
    - Phone: 601-795-7548
  - Stone County EOC, K5STO
    - Email via Winlink: K5STO@winlink.org
    - Phone: 601-928-3077
  ❖ Repeaters
  - Primary Repeater 147.165 (+) PL 136.5
  - Backup repeater: 145.270 (-) 136.5
  ❖ Modes of Operations
  - All HF bands
  - Vara HF and VHF FM
  - DMR Hotspot and portables available at the EOC
  - Other modes and repeaters in future plans and will update as they become available.

➢ Pearl River County ARES
  ❖ Team Members
  - EC: Tom Kelly, AB6Z
    - Email: tkelly49@gmail.com
    - Phone: 601-966-1064
  - AEC Randy Davis, N5DOT
    - Email: n5dot.rd@gmail.com
    - Phone: 601-916-0355
  - AEC John Guthana, AA5UY
    - Email: jguthans@aol.com
    - Phone: 985-640-5303
  - EMA Director: Shawn Wise, K5SCW → Note: per the counties' request only contact through the EC
  - EMA Deputy Director: Landon Wheat

❖ Repeaters

Repeaters:	Call	Frequency	Offset	Tone	Note
NASA John C. SSC	N5SS	147.210	+.600	136.5	PRC ARES NET
Ozone Amateur Radio Club	W5SLA	147.270	+ .600	114.8	PRC backup
PEARL League Club RPTR	AB6Z	147.090	+ .600	136.5	Club Repeater
Emergency Backup Repeater	AB6Z	442.150	+ 5.00	136.5	Club UHF
Picayune GMRS	WRZW838	Channel 20	+ 5.00	no tone	PEARL GMRS

- Active listening to 146.52 for Emergencies I-10, I-59, I-12 in Pearl River and Hancock Counties.

➢ Jackson County ARES
  ❖ Team Members
  - EC / ADEC: Laurence Galle, K9EYZ
    - Email: k9eyz@icloud.com
    - Phone: 228-327-4333
  - AEC: Robert Carew, KM4EWZ
    - Email: km4ewz@gmail.com
    - Phone: 561-567-4758
  - AEC: Jerry Nobles, N5MES
    - Email: n5mes@pm.me
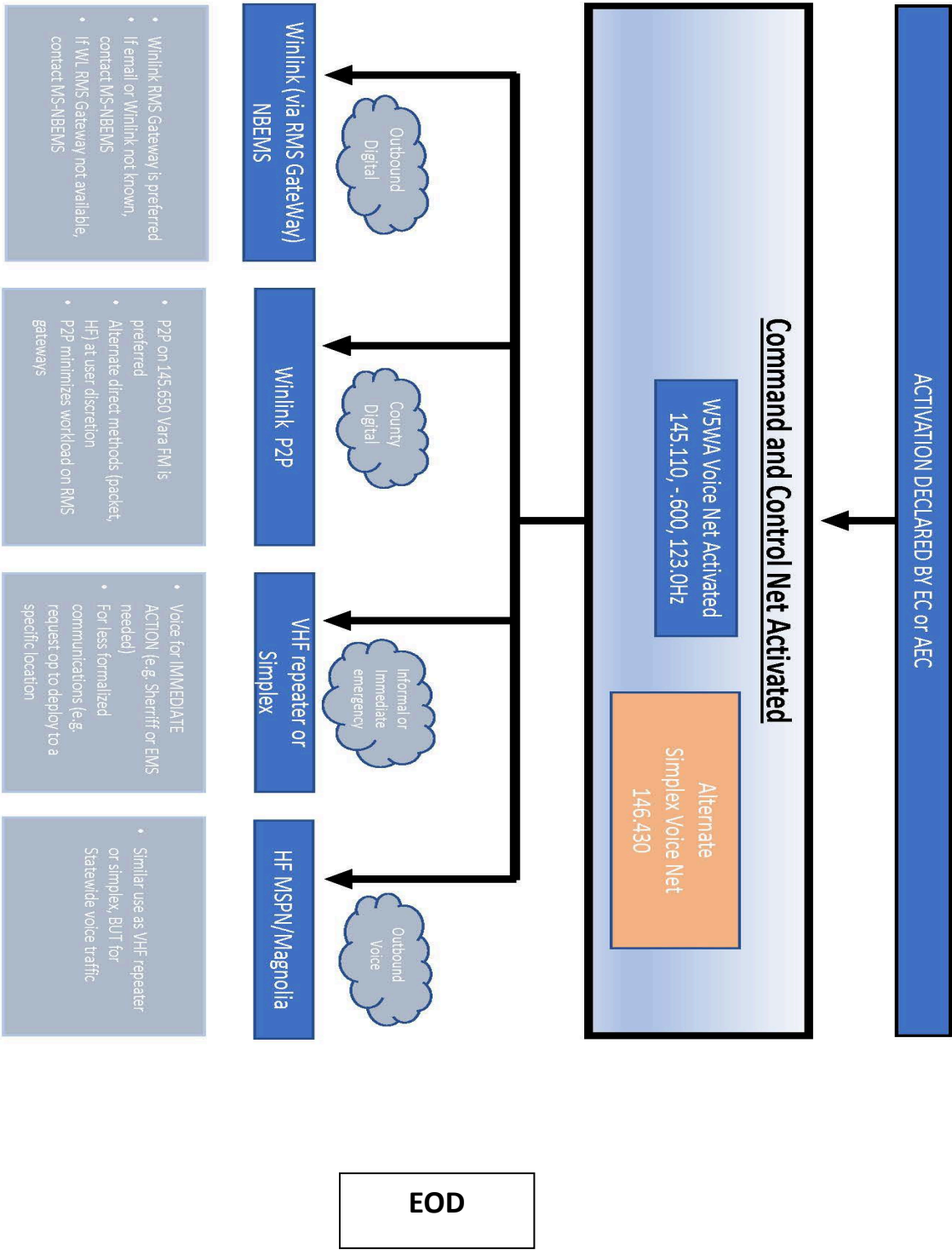   - Phone: 228-218-6144
  ❖ Repeater
  - Vancleave 145.110 (-) Tone 123.0Hz
    - Emergency Generator Power
  - K9EYZ, 146.970, (-) Tone 136.5Hz
  - Simplex Frequencies
    - 146.430 FM * Primary
    - 146.520 FM * National Calling Frequency
    - 146.540 FM
    - 146.570 FM
    - 446.120 FM
    - 446.000 FM * National Calling Frequency
  - 2m Packet
    - 145.010 (Adjacent states)
    - 145.650 (Winlink Packet gateway)
  - 2m Vara FM Digital (Winlink P2P)
    - 145.650
  - Winlink Gateway
    - 145.650 Vara FM
    - 3.589.5 on the Dial, 3.591.0 Center – Vara, ARDOP
    - 7.101.0 on the Dial, 7.102.5 Center – Vara, ARDOP

  ❖ Activation Plan
    1. Repeater Voice Net
       a. W5WA Repeater
       b. Command and Control of ARES activities
       c. Primary and Initial activation of net

2. Simplex Voice Net
   a.   146.430
   b.   Backup for W5WA repeater net as command and control

3. Winlink
   a. Accessible Gateways
      i.   Primary for traffic in/out of Jackson County
      ii.   Primary for intra-county digital traffic
   b. P2P
      i.   Secondary intra-county digital traffic

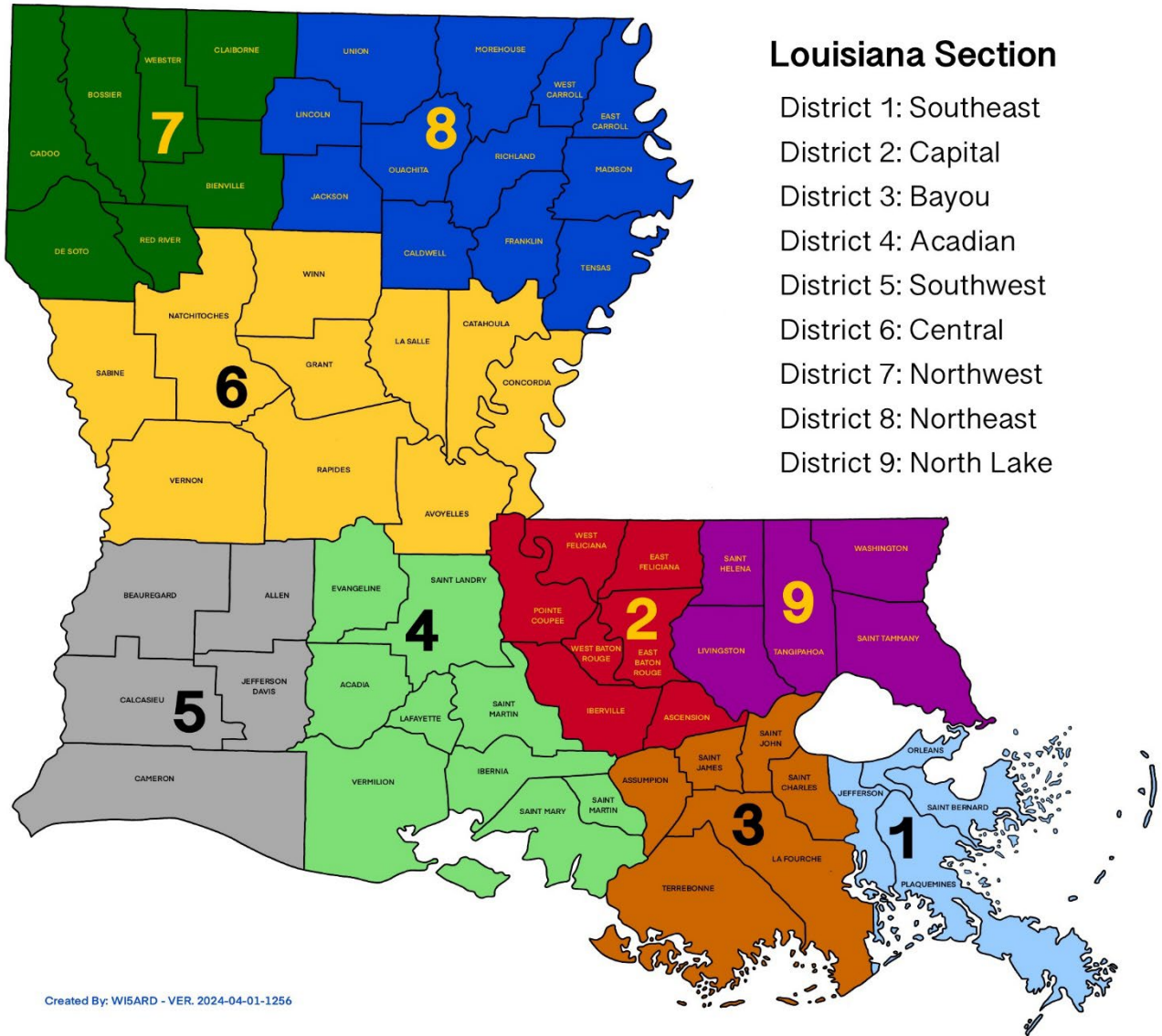`

ACTIVATION DECLARED BY EC or AEC

Command and Control Net Activated

W5WA Voice Net Activated
145.110, - 600, 123.0Hz

Alternate Simplex Voice Net
146.430

Winlink (via RMS GateWay) NBEMS

Outbound Digital

- Winlink RMS Gateway is preferred
- If email or Winlink not known, contact MS-NBEMS
- If WL RMS Gateway not available, contact MS-NBEMS

Winlink P2P

County Digital

- P2P on 145.650 Vara FM is preferred
- Alternate direct methods (packet, HF) at user discretion
- P2P minimizes workload on RMS gateways

VHF repeater or Simplex

Informal or Immediate emergency

- Voice for IMMEDIATE ACTION (e.g. Sherriff or EMS needed)
- For less formalized communications (e.g. request op to deploy to a specific location)

HF MSPN/Magnolia

Outbound Voice

- Similar use as VHF repeater or simplex, BUT for Statewide voice traffic

EOD

Other Contacts

➢ Mississippi Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service
   ❖ Team members
      ● Jack Williams K5FIT Officer
         - Email: K5FIT@yahoo.com

● Stennis Space Center EOC (Tenative)
   ❖ Team Members
      ● Mikah Crochet K5WZ
         - mikahcrochet@gmail.com

● Louisiana District 9 Saint Tammany Parish EC: Russ Plyler WI5ARD

   Louisiana Section District 9

   ● Livingston Parish
   ● Saint Helena Parish
   ● Saint Tammany Parish
      ■ EC
         ● Russell Plyler (WI5ARD)
         ● WI5ARD@arrl.net
         ● +1 (985) 981-0952 Mobile
      ■ AEC - West Side of Parish
         ● Mike Jackson (KI5GGP)
         ● mo.jackson@outlook.com
      ■ AEC - East Side of Parish
         ● Glen Strecker (KG5CEN)
         ● KG5CEN@gmail.com
      ■ Frequencies
         ● Primary (Lacombe)
            ○ 147.270 (+) PL 107.2 (W5SLA)
            ○ OZONE ARC
         ● Secondary (Folsom)
            ○ 146.715 (-) PL 114.8 (WB5ERM)
            ○ Pet Liuzza
         ● Packet
            ○ 145.010
            ○ Lacombe, LA
              - SIL (K-Node)
            ○ Covington, LA (Saint Tammany EOC)
              - WX5OEP (K-Node)
              - WX5OEP-1 (BBS/Mailbox)

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- - ■ Saint Tammany / Covington EOC
      - ● WX5OEP - Amateur
      - ● SHARES
        - ○ NNA6AT - Base
        - ○ NNA6DU - Mobile Command
      - ● Winlink
  - Tangipahoa Parish
    - ■ DEC
      - ● Ed Mason (KE5GMN)
      - ● KE5GMN@arrl.net
      - ● +1 (985) 517-5294 Mobile
    - ■ Tangipahoa / Amite EOC
      - ● W5TEO - Amateur
      - ● SHARES
        - ○ NNA6DW - Base
        - ○ NNA6DX - Mobile Command
        - ○ NNA6DY - Field
        - ○ Winlink
  - Washington Parish
    - ■ SEC
      - ● Jim Coleman (AI5B)
      - ● AI5B@arrl.net
      - ● +1 (985) 516-2632 Mobile
    - ■ Frequencies
      - ● Primary (Sheridan, 911 Center)
        - ○ 145.430 (-) PL 107.2 (WA5ARC)
        - ○ Washington ARC

      - ● Secondary (Sheridan, 911 Center)
        - ○ 442.425 (+) PL 156.7 (WB5BTR)
        - ○ LWIN
      - ● Packet
        - ○ 145.010
    - ■ Washington / Sheridan EOC
      - ● WA5ARD - Amateur
      - ● SHARES
        - ○ NCS969 - Base
        - ○ NCS967 - Mobile Command
- Links
  - Louisiana Section Website
    - ■ https://laarrl.org/
  - OZONE ARC ARES Page
    - ■ http://w5sla.net/ARES.htm
  - Louisiana Section District 9 Google Drive Documents
    - ■ https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1xU3v_pBTBkAqCkBskJD4z3D1UroraKC_

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Hurricane Season 2024

Louisiana Section

District 1: Southeast
District 2: Capital
District 3: Bayou
District 4: Acadian
District 5: Southwest
District 6: Central
District 7: Northwest
District 8: Northeast
District 9: North Lake

Created By: WI5ARD - VER. 2024-04-01-1256

Hurricane Season 2025

- "Since 1950, 23% of all North Atlantic hurricanes have made landfall in the U.S."
- NOAA's Hurricane Research Division calculated an average of about one hurricane made landfall in the U.S. each year, based on data from 1851 through 2022.
- Long-range computer models suggest the pattern of winds aloft that guide hurricanes could steer more toward the coast again in 2025.

New Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Scale

DESIGNATION:	WIND SPEED:
Tropical Depression	38 mph or less
Tropical Storm	39 - 73 mph
Category 1	74 - 95 mph
Category 2	96 - 110 mph
Category 3	111 - 129 mph
Category 4	130 - 156 mph
Category 5	157 mph or greater

The Weather Company/Atmospheric G2

Hurricane Season Outlook
2025 | Atlantic Basin

		AVERAGE	2024 SEASON
TOTAL STORMS	19	14	18
HURRICANES	9	7	11
CAT 3 +	4	3	5

ARRL Mississippi Section

Emergency Operations Plan
(Revised 2 February 2018)

The State of Mississippi is repeatedly subject to hurricanes, tornadoes, ice storms, and flooding, as well as other emergency situations. Amateur Radio operators are in a unique position to render critical public service for several reasons: Amateurs own their own equipment and have proven HF/VHF communications capability for point-to-point, repeater, and satellite communications using fixed, portable, mobile, and hand-held equipment.

Mission: It is the mission of the Mississippi Section Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) to serve as the coordinating point for Amateur Radio Operators and their served agencies in the event of a communications emergency.

ARES is a national level volunteer organization whose purpose is to serve the public by providing licensed, certified, and competent Amateur Radio communications to federal, state, county, and local government agencies, as well as to nonprofit disaster relief organizations.

The primary activity of ARES is to provide emergency communications during disasters or significant events such as severe weather (hurricanes, flashfloods, ice storms), power failures, large area events (parades, marathons, races, walks, bicycle tours), etc. During an event, ARES will supplement public service communications or in stand in the place of primary normal communications when other channels become unavailable. ARES will operate before, during, and after major disasters. Amateurs participate in annual emergency communications preparedness exercises such as the American Radio Relay League (ARRL) sponsored Section Emergency Test (SET) and Field Day. Amateurs also participate regularly in local training exercises frequently in support of local emergency management agencies. In addition, Amateurs attend presentations and undertake self-study to improve their emergency preparedness expertise.

1.0 Amateur Emergency Preparedness Organizations

1.1 Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES). Because of the unique communications capability that can be offered by Hams, the ARRL has laid the groundwork for developing an emergency communications response organization through the ARES. This organization consists of licensed Amateurs, who have voluntarily registered their qualifications and equipment for communications duty in the public interest to respond to emergency communications requirements. Every licensed Amateur, regardless of having membership in the ARRL or any other local or national organization, is eligible for membership in ARES. The only qualification, other than possession of an Amateur Radio license, is a sincere desire to serve in the public interest during emergency situations.

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1.2 Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES). Amateurs can also participate in emergency operations by officially enrolling in RACES, which is administered by local/county/state emergency management agencies with guidance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency. A RACES Emergency Service Plan has been signed by the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency Director dated December 20, 2005.

RACES operations are conducted by Amateurs using their own primary station licenses and by using existing RACES stations. Operating privileges in RACES are dependent upon, and identical to, the class of license held in the Amateur Radio Service. All the authorized frequencies and emissions allocated to the Amateur Radio Service are also available to RACES on a shared basis; however, in the event the President invokes his War Emergency Powers, Amateurs involved with RACES could be limited to frequencies assigned by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration and announced by the Federal Communications Commission. Although RACES was originally based on potential use for wartime, it has evolved over the years to encompass all types of emergencies. Even though RACES and ARES are separate entities, the ARRL advocates dual membership and cooperative efforts between both groups.

1.3 SKYWARN. This program was organized and is sponsored by the National Weather Service (NWS) to provide real time "ground truth" meteorological information to NWS stations that is needed to confirm or supplement information collected by NWS observations, Doppler radar systems, and automated weather stations. Although the NWS primarily relies on information provided by Amateurs participating in SKYWARN Nets during thunderstorm and tornado activity, the Nets could be activated to support other severe weather events or natural disasters. NWS meteorologists often are available to provide storm spotter training to Amateurs as formal classes or as programs during club meetings.

2.0 Mississippi Section Emergency Organization

Amateur emergency operations in Mississippi are coordinated by the Section Manager, Section Emergency Coordinator, District Emergency Coordinators, Emergency Coordinators, Assistant Emergency Coordinators, and Official Emergency Stations as described below:

Section Manager (SM): elected by ARRL members in the Mississippi Section. One of the key SM duties is to ensure that Amateurs in Mississippi are prepared to respond to emergency situations by appointing a Section Emergency Coordinator. If no motivated and capable SEC can be located, the SM is obligated to serve in the SEC position. During regional emergencies (which encompass two or more ARRL sections), the SM will coordinate with other SMs or take the coordination lead in Amateur Radio emergency operations.

Section Emergency Coordinator (SEC): appointed by the SM. The SEC is responsible for overall organization and coordination of Amateur Radio emergency operations in Mississippi including continual maintenance of contact with state emergency management agencies. The SEC is also responsible for locating and appointing motivated and capable District Emergency Coordinators (DEC) in consultation with the SM, preparing the scenario for and conducting the annual Section Emergency Test, and taking charge of section level Amateur Radio emergency operations. During local emergencies, he will assist the DEC and county Emergency Coordinators (EC), as requested. If no DEC or EC is available in each county, the SEC will function in that capacity, as required. The SEC will file a monthly report with the SM based on information derived from monthly DEC reports and other sources. This report should be filed with the SM no later than the 8th day following the end of the reporting period.

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District Emergency Coordinator (DEC): appointed by the SEC in coordination with the SM. The Mississippi Section is divided into several districts by the SM and SEC in consultation with the DECs which conform to the Mississippi Highway Patrol Districts. These districts are currently made up of counties to which an EC is appointed.

The principal function of the DEC is to take charge of Amateur Radio emergency operations when an emergency develops that is confined to his district and to ensure that each county in his/her district has a motivated and capable EC. The DEC will assist each EC in preparing local emergency operations plan and in the conduct of local emergency preparedness activities, as well as in actual emergency operations. If no EC is available in each county, the DEC will serve in that capacity, as required. The DEC will file a monthly report with the SEC based on information derived from monthly EC reports and other sources. This report should be filed with the SEC no later than the 5th day following the end of the reporting period. Any information that the DEC thinks should be included in the monthly section report should be sent directly to the SM by the 8th of the month following the end of the reporting period with a copy furnished to the SEC.

Emergency Coordinator (EC): appointed by the DEC in coordination with the SM and SEC. The ECs jurisdiction may cover a single county or several counties depending on such factors as population distribution (i.e. a metro area), working relationship with emergency management agency officials, and Amateurs in adjacent counties, or the fact that an adjacent county may not have a capable and willing candidate to be appointed to the EC position.

The EC is responsible for:
a) Preparing a local emergency operations plan
b) Coordinating with local emergency management agencies on a regular basis
c) Recruiting ARES members
d) Contacting local repeater owners to determine if their repeaters can be used and/or linked during emergencies; and conducting local emergency communications preparedness exercises

When a local emergency does occur, the EC takes charge of operations.

The EC shall file a monthly report with the DEC based on ARES activity in his/her county. This report should be filed with the DEC no later than the 2nd day following the end of the reporting period. Any information that the EC thinks should be included in the monthly section report should be sent directly to the SM by the 8th of the month following the end of the reporting period with copies furnished to the DEC and SEC.

Assistant Emergency Coordinator (AEC): AECs are selected and appointed by the EC. Each EC may have as many AECs as required to effectively manage the ARES Unit. AEC responsibilities fall under the general categories of operations, administration, liaison, and logistics. The AEC is strictly a local and appointment and does not require ARRL membership or SM/SEC/DEC approval, or notification to ARRL Headquarters.

Official Emergency Station (OES): appointed by the SM upon recommendation by the EC in coordination with the SEC and DEC. An OES is generally more than an ARES member. He or she is capable of operating HF and/or VHF equipment in home, portable, or handheld situations using emergency power. The OES is prepared for emergency response and has made a deep commitment to emergency preparedness operations through training, securing emergency communications equipment, and pre-planning for participation in emergency operations.

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3.0 <u>Amateur Emergency Preparedness Responsibilities</u>

In preparation for responding to emergencies each Amateur in Mississippi is encouraged to:
- Register as an ARES Member with the local EC
- Know who to advise when an emergency develops
- Understand operating procedures used by emergency nets by checking in during training or regular sessions
- Participate in emergency preparedness activities such as the SET, Field Day, or local exercise
- Take advantage of presentations by emergency preparedness experts and undertake self-study courses directed toward improving emergency preparedness expertise (see attachment A)
- Understand how to prepare messages in standard format
- Ensure that equipment is ready to operate under emergency conditions
- Keep an emergency deployment check list (ARES Field Resources Manual; Attachment A)

4.0 <u>Amateur Role in Emergency Situations</u>

During emergency situations Amateurs should be prepared to do the following:
- Establish supplemental communications for emergency management agencies as back up for existing primary systems
- Provide primary communications into areas where no other communications exist
- Prepare, send, receive, and deliver official messages as requested by emergency management agencies
- Prepare, send, receive, and deliver health-and-welfare traffic
- Provide meteorological observations, as requested. Amateurs should not be expected to assist with disaster assessment, organize and conduct logistical operations, or assist with shelter management, unless they have been previously trained for these emergency preparedness specialty areas

5.0 Amateur Radio Emergency Operations in Mississippi

The procedures for Amateur Radio emergency operations for local, district, and section emergencies in Mississippi are described below. In addition, the Mississippi Section's role in a regional emergency involving other ARRL Sections is also defined.

5.1 Local Emergency Operations. In that a large majority of emergency situations in which Amateur Radio can be of service are of a local nature, the EC becomes the keystone for conduct of these operations. In preparation for these emergency situations, the EC will:

a) Contact those local agencies that Amateur radio may potentially be able to assist and make them aware of Amateur Radio capabilities and Amateur willingness to assist in emergency situations.
b) Enlist local Amateurs as ARES members and encourage them to prepare themselves and their equipment to respond to emergency situations at the local, district, section, and regional levels.
c) Contact local repeater owners to determine if their repeaters are available to be used/linked during emergency situations.
d) Establish a regular local emergency net (see www.arrlmiss.org for current listing of local nets) and conduct emergency preparedness exercises, possibly in conjunction with the Mississippi Section SET.

e) Prepare a local Amateur Radio emergency operations plan. This may be a list of key personnel to be contacted and repeater frequencies to be used in the event of an emergency but will serve as a starting point for activating an emergency operation. The key point of the plan is that local Amateurs will know who to contact to activate emergency communications and what to do when an emergency develops as opposed to being in a situation where everybody says, "what do we do now."

f) In the event of a local emergency the EC will mobilize ARES members and simultaneously contact local emergency management agencies to determine if Amateur Radio services can be of assistance. Further, the EC will request activation of repeaters/links to accommodate emergency traffic.

g) The EC will advise the DEC, SEC, and/or SM of the emergency (see Attachment B) and request assistance, as needed.

h) During the emergency, the EC or his designated AEC will direct operations until Amateur Radio services are no longer needed.

i) After the emergency has concluded the EC will prepare a written report of emergency operations activity for the DEC, who after review, will forward the report to the SEC, and in turn the SM.

5.2 District Emergency Operations. In the event an emergency involves the jurisdictions of two or more ECs in his district, the DEC will manage operations through the ECs in the affected counties or directly, as required.

The DEC will immediately advise the SEC and SM of the situation, as well as appropriate Amateur Radio Emergency Management Agency Points-of-Contact (POCs) such that the agencies are aware that Amateur Radio Services are available. In the event the POC cannot be immediately contacted, the SM or SEC should be asked to make the contact because the DEC will be involved in other critical aspects of the emergency operation. Further, the DEC will request activation of repeaters/links to accommodate emergency traffic, if deemed necessary.

When tactical or health and welfare traffic is anticipated at the Section level, the DEC will contact the Section Traffic Manager (STM):
1. The STM will then alert the Managers of the Magnolia Section Net (MSN) and the Mississippi Section Phone Net (MSPN) (see Attachment C) of the activation and then ask them to staff the Joint Net with net control stations, as required, for the duration of the emergency.
2. If traffic is anticipated for out of state locations, the
    a. DEC will advise the STM that liaison stations need to be available between the Joint Net and the National Traffic System (NTS) for both the Daytime and Nighttime sessions.
3. Immediately after the emergency has concluded the DEC will prepare a written report of emergency operations activity for the SEC, who after review, will forward the report to the SM.

5.3 Section Emergency Operations. If the emergency affects all or a large portion of Mississippi, the SEC will manage Amateur Radio operations as follows:
1. The SEC will be responsible for advising the SM and the STM regarding the development of the emergency as well as the Managers of the MSN and the MSPN. The SEC will coordinate with emergency management agency POCs, as needed, (See Attachment B) and request activation of appropriate repeaters/links to accommodate emergency traffic.

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2. The SEC will advise the Net Managers of the MSN and the MSPN (or their designees) will be responsible for NCS staffing for the duration of the emergency in accordance with the Joint Emergency Operations Procedures (see Attachment C).

3. The STM will ensure that NTS liaison stations are available NTS sessions. Further, he will notify the following of the emergency. The Manager of the Fifth Region Daytime Net (SSB), and the Manager of the Manager of the Central Area Digital Hub (see Attachment B).

4. Immediately after the emergency has concluded the SEC will prepare a written report of emergency operations activity for the SM, who, after review, will forward the report to ARRL Headquarters.

5.4 Regional Emergency Operations. Because regional emergencies such as hurricanes, floods, and ice storms don't stop at ARRL section lines, the Mississippi Section is party to a memorandum of understanding with the other sections of the ARRL Delta Division (Arkansas, Louisiana, and Tennessee) (a copy of this MOU is available from MS Section Manager).

By pooling communications resources such as experienced net control stations, traffic handlers, NTS liaison stations, and weather observers, effective communications can be maintained on a 24-hour basis permitting Hams in the affected areas to concentrate on taking care of family needs and to be able to respond to local emergency situations. The SM of the section that is anticipated to be the most impacted by the disaster event will be the SM Coordinator for regional emergency operations.

The selection of the SM Coordinator will by agreement of the Section Managers that are a party to the MOU. The SM Coordinator will be responsible for organizing and staffing a HF tactical phone emergency net. This responsibility will be delegated to the Delta Division ARES manager or his assistant Net Manager. The SM Coordinator will inform ARRL Headquarters of the emergency net's activation.

The actual start time of the net will be determined by mutual consent of the Section Managers based on available information. In the event the SM Coordinator is not available, the Section Emergency coordinator or one of the other SMs will assume coordination responsibilities. Further, the SM Coordinator will notify the following of the emergency: The Manager of the NTS Fifth Region Daytime Net (SSB) and the Manager of the Central Area Digital Hub (see Attachment B). The SM Coordinator may recruit one of the other SMs, SECs, or STMs to assist with these tasks.

During a regional emergency, the Delta ARES Emergency Net will be activated under the provisions of the Delta Division MOU: 3890 (night) and 7275 (day). During a regional emergency, the Joint MSN/MSPN Net will operate on 7238 KHz (daytime) and 3862 KHz (nighttime) to handle overflow tactical traffic, welfare traffic, and intra-state traffic, as needed.

The Managers of the MSN and MSPN will staff the net according to the Joint Emergency Operation Procedures (Attachment C). The STM will ensure that there is MSN/MSPN liaison with the Delta ARES Emergency Net. The National Traffic System operates the Daytime Region 5 Net (DRN5) (SSB) and the Manager of the Central Area Digital Hub. These Nets will handle primarily Health/Welfare Traffic. DRN5 meets daily at 1025 AM on 7280 and on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. In the summer RN5 uses 7108 for both sessions. Digital in-state traffic point-to-point center frequencies are 7079.9 (USB)(Daytime) and 3595.9 (USB)(Nighttime). These frequencies have been coordinated with the Louisiana Section for common use.

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5.4.1 Digital Operations: The HF Digital NTS is encouraged for use with NTS type messages. Winlink 2000 is encouraged for destinations with email addresses. This may include HF and VHF with RMS Express. Winmor will be the primary mode for Winlink 2000 use. Digital modes such as RTTY, PSK-31, etc. and modes that do not have error checking are not encouraged due to their ability to receive errors without realizing the transmitted message has changed.

VHF packet peer to peer and packet gateway traffic will be handled on 145.010. VHF FM operation can be handled on 146.52 simplex (national simplex frequency) for an initial contact with incoming mobiles during an incident. Once contact has been established, operation should be moved to another simplex frequency or a local repeater. This procedure will be used to accommodate incoming mobiles who are not aware of active repeater frequencies or PL tones. Immediately after the emergency has concluded, the SM Coordinator will prepare a written report of emergency operations activity for the ARRL Field Organization Supervisor.

End of Report

For questions concerning this document, please contact the undersigned:

Robert Hayes
KC5IMN
Section Emergency Coordinator, MS ARES
903-244-9254

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Attachment A: Resource Materials

The documents and links listed below make up the core resources for Amateurs involved in emergency preparedness operations.

ARRL Amateur Radio Emergency Communications On-Line Courses. The ARRL offers two online EMCOMM Courses: *"Introduction to Emergency Communications"* (EC-001) and "Public Service and *"Emergency Communications Management for Radio Amateurs"* (EC-016). See www.arrl.org/online-course-catalog .

FEMA On-Line National Incident Management System Independent Study Program. See http://training.fema.gov/IS/NIMS.asp . Many of the courses are pre-requisites for the ARRL Courses.

The ARRL Digital Technology for Emergency Communication Course (Self Study CDROM)

ARES E-Newsletter. To subscribe you must be logged into the ARRL Web Site. Click "Edit Your Profile" at the top center of the page. Click select "Edit E-mail Subscriptions". Select "The ARRL E-Newsletter" and then save your changes.

ARRL Emergency Coordinators Manual. This document is no longer available in hard copy. A down-loadable copy is available from ARRL Headquarters.

ARRL ARES Field Resources Manual (available electronically from the SEC)

ARRL Public Service Communications Manual. This document is no longer available in hard copy but can be downloaded at www.arrl.org/FandES/Field/pscm .

Amateur Radio Public Service Handbook

Emergency Power for Radio Communications

The ARRL Repeater Directory

The ARRL Net Directory. This document is no longer available in hardcopy. On-line information about nets is available at www.arrl.org/arrl-net-directory-search. The Net Directory on the Mississippi Section Website (www.arrlmiss.org) is probably more up to date. Documents with them can be ordered from the ARRL at 1-888-277-5289 or from the on-line bookstore at www.arrl.org.

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Attachment B:

Points of Contact for Emergency Operations are available at www.arrlmiss.org

District Emergency Coordinators, Emergency Coordinators, and Assistant Emergency Coordinators (see listing at www.arrlmiss.org under DEC/EC) Emergency Coordinators (see listing at www.arrlmiss.org under DEC/EC)

Attachment C:

Joint Emergency Operation Procedures Magnolia Section Net and Mississippi Section Phone Net 3862 KHz

1. The Magnolia Section Net (MSN) and the Mississippi Section Phone Net (MSPN) under the auspices of the Mississippi Section of the American Radio Relay League (ARRL) conduct daily sessions to train for emergencies. Under normal conditions these two nets operate independently of each other with each having a Net Manager; however, during emergencies, joint operations may be required to effectively expedite the handling of tactical and health/welfare traffic for emergency management and relief agencies. The joint operation will be activated at the request of the Section Emergency Coordinator (SEC) and the concurrence of the Net Managers.

2. The joint daily operational rotation cycle will commence at the beginning of the morning session of the MSN. After all traffic has been handled the formal session will conclude, and the Net will go into emergency session. The MSN Net Manager will be responsible for assigning Net Control Stations (NCS) to monitor the frequency in two-hour shifts (or other shift lengths as specified by the MSN Manager) after conclusion of the formal session. In the event traffic needs to be moved off frequency to another net such as a multi-section tactical net or DRN5, the NCS will recruit a liaison station to move the traffic. (Note: The MSN normally meets on 3862.5 KHz at 6 AM weekdays and 7 AM weekends and Holidays. However, during joint emergency operation the MSN will meet on 3862 KHz to ensure continuity of operations.)

3. The MSN will be relieved at the start of the MSPN on 3862 KHz (6 PM - summer; 5:30 PM - winter). After all traffic is handled the MSPN formal session will conclude, and the Net will go into emergency session. The MSPN Net Manager will be responsible for assigning NCSs to monitor the frequency in two hours shifts (or other shift lengths as specified by the MSPN Manager) after conclusion of the formal session. In the event traffic needs to be moved off frequency to another net such as a multi-section tactical net or RN5, the NCS will recruit a liaison station to move the traffic. Net operations will conclude for the day at the discretion of the MSPN Manager; however, during periods of high-volume emergency traffic the Net may need operate through the night until relieved by the MSN at 6 AM.

4. During periods when there is no activity the NCS will announce approximately every ten minutes: *"This is (call) net control for the Mississippi ARES Emergency Net now in emergency session. This is a joint operation between the Magnolia Section Net and the Mississippi Section Phone Net. Operation will commence each day at 0600 with the start of the Magnolia Section Net and continue until the band shortens to the point that statewide communication is not possible. At that time, the Mississippi ARES Emergency Net will move to 7238 until the band lengthens in the afternoon at which time the Net will return to 3862 or at 6 PM which is the start of the Mississippi Section Phone Net Session. Is there any emergency or tactical traffic now? Is there any health/welfare traffic? (Handle any traffic). Please keep the frequency clear during quiet periods and monitor for emergency or tactical traffic. Be ready to assist the Net Control Station, as necessary."* The NCS is at liberty to vary this procedure as net operation dictates.

5. The Joint Operation Procedures may be modified at any time with the concurrence of the SEC and the respective Net Managers.

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