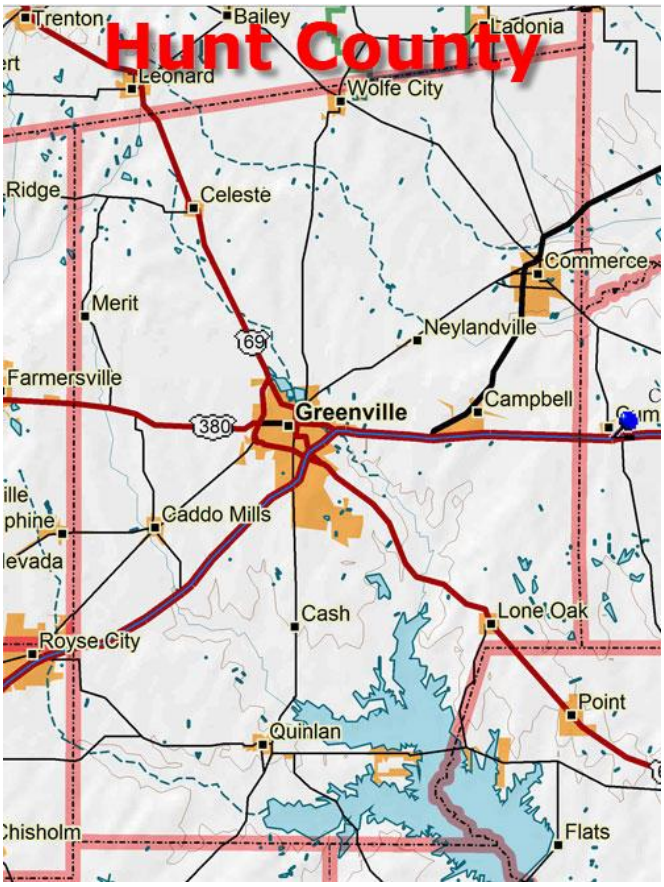
HUNT COUNTY TEXAS A.R.E.S. And R.A.C.E.S.

STORM WRANGLERS



Storm Spotter Guide

Developed in cooperation with the National Weather Service SKYWARN Program, the Hunt County Office of Emergency Management, the American Radio Relay League, and the Sabine Valley Amateur Radio Association.

DISCLAIMER : This guide is intended as a reference, and is not intended to include all possible scenarios and their potential outcomes.

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Acknowledgments

This authors gratefully acknowledge the assistance and cooperation of The National Weather Service Office in Fort Worth, Texas, the Dallas County RACES, the Fannin County RACES/ARES, and the Hunt County Office of Emergency Management for the inspiration and creation of this guide.

Welcome to the Hunt County

"STORM WRANGLER"

This guide is produced as a reference manual for the ARES and RACES services of Hunt County, Texas. Special thanks to the publishers of the "CLOUD COWBOY" Published for Dallas County RACES, and "STORM COWBOY" written by Dr. Mike Durbin K5MJD for the Fannin County, Texas RACES/ARES.

It is of utmost importance that the Primary Duty of everyone involved is to protect the lives and safety each other and the general public. We cannot help others if we become casualties ourselves!

Remember, Life and Limb emergencies have PRIORITY in all situations!

The NET operations in the Hunt County emergency system typically operate as an ARES net, thus any ARES amateur radio operator is allowed to enter the NETs and support the operations.

All operators must be aware however that in the event a RACES net is in progress or invoked, **ONLY** RACES certified operators are authorized to operate on the net. This is directed by the FCC and thus must be enforced by NET control. RACES Net of operations will be called up by the Emergency Coordinator for Hunt County and special rules apply during such a NET.

In the event of a threat to life or property any operator may enter the NET by calling the NET control operator and using the standard "BREAK BREAK" call and then waiting for the NET Control to reply and assist with the emergency.

This guide is the first edition to be published specifically for Hunt County but can be used by anyone as reference information for Storm Spotting activities.

Please feel free to contact the author with any comments or suggestions and also feel free to copy and use the document as you see necessary. Just reference the original "CLOUD COWBOY", the "STORM COWBOY", and this "STORM WRANGLER" guide.

PURPOSE

The Primary purpose of the SKYWARN program is to warn the general public of impending Severe Weather, and to do so with enough prior warning that people have sufficient time to seek shelter.

The recommended LEAD TIME, is 20 to 30 minutes in advance of the onset of Severe Weather.

In order to provide 20 to 30 minutes warning, the Storm Spotter MUST be looking UPSTREAM of the approaching storm. A fast moving, or rapidly developing storm can cover a lot of distance in a very short time.

Advance Warning LEAD TIME equals DISTANCE!

For example, a storm moving at 45 to 60 miles per hour equates to an UPSTREAM Inbound Distance of 20 to30 miles.

For the south western portion of Hunt County, the Royce City – Caddo Mills – Union Valley area, an Upstream Inbound Distance of 20 to 30 miles would be the Mesquite – Garland – LBJ Freeway area for storms approaching from the southwest.

For the southern portion of Hunt County, the Poetry - Quinlan – West Tawakoni – Lone Oak area, an Upstream Inbound Distance of 20 to 30 miles would be the Interstate 20 corridor from Dallas to Canton for storms approaching from the south.

For the eastern portion of Hunt County, the Lone Oak – Campbell – Commerce area, an Upstream Inbound Distance of 20 to 30 miles would be the State Highway 19 corridor from Emory to Sulphur Springs to Cooper for storms approaching from the east.
An Upstream Inbound Distance of 20 to 30 miles for storms approaching from the west would be the State Highway 205 corridor from Rockwall to Wylie.

For the northern portion of Hunt County, the Leonard -Celeste - Wolfe City- Commerce area, an Upstream Inbound Distance of 20 to 30 miles would be the U.S. Highway 82 – Red River corridor from Sherman to Bonham to Honey Grove for storms approaching from the north.

For the western portion of Hunt County, the Leonard – Celeste – Merit – Farmersville – Caddo Mills area, an Upstream Inbound Distance of 20 to 30 miles would be the U.S. Highway 75/ Central Expressway corridor for storms approaching from the west.

WHO is LISTENING and WHY??

Please be Professional, Calm, Courteous, and Respectful as there are an awful lot of people listening to us during severe weather events. We are working to serve the general public in cooperation with the National Weather Service, and local Emergency Service agencies.

Among the many agencies listening to our radio traffic and weather reports are: the Sheriff's Office of our county, and surrounding counties; the Texas Department of Public Safety DPS; the many Fire and Rescue Departments; the Emergency Medical Response personnel in their ambulances, helicopters, and stations; the nurses, doctors, and patients in the area hospitals; the American Red Cross and Salvation Army; businesses, stores, and employers; schools and colleges ; and of course The News Media!

Each entity listening is seeking assurance and information that will assist in protecting the lives of the public, and to be ready to respond to the scene of injuries, damage, or destruction.

A 20 to 30 minute Lead Time will give the local Law Enforcement, Fire and Rescue Departments and EMS agencies time to move to assigned pre-event staging locations, and to activate their own in-house storm spotting and response personnel.

A 20 to 30 minute Lead Time will give schools the time to move their students into safe shelter, for nurses to assist hospital patients to appropriate areas, and for stores and businesses to move patrons and employees away from glass windows.

A 20 to 30 minute Lead Time will allow the American Red Cross and the Salvation Army the time they need to contact their personnel to be ready should they be called upon to provide sheltering, or assistance to people displaced by an event.

The local news media, radio and television stations will be listening to assist in spreading the warning to their listeners, and to be the first on the scene with the latest breaking news.

Definitions

For the purposes of this guide, we will use the following basic definitions of these terms:

ARRL – American Radio Relay League, the National Association of Amateur Radio Operators

A.R.E.S. – the Amateur Radio Emergency Service, a division of the ARRL

R.A.C.E.S. – Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service, a division of National, State, and Local Emergency Management programs established by the FCC

FEMA – Federal Emergency Management Agency

TDEM – Texas Division of Emergency Management

OEM – Office of Emergency Management

SKYWARN – a Severe Weather Warning Program established by the National Weather Service

NET CONTROL – the Amateur Radio Operator in control of the radio communications network during an event

PSAP – Public Safety Answering Point - the local 911 emergency dispatch center

NIMS – National Incident Management System

ICS – Incident Command System

WHAT IS RACES and ARES?

RADIO AMATUER CIVIL EMERGENCY SERVICE

The FCC rules define RACES (Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service) as "A radio service using amateur stations for civil defense communications during periods of local, regional or national civil emergencies."

RACES is an organization of licensed amateur radio operators who volunteer their time and equipment to provide supplemental communications to local, county, and state governments in times of emergency or natural disaster. Its operation is governed by FCC regulations found in Part 97 Subpart E, and in Texas by the Emergency Management Plan of the State of Texas, and of Hunt County, Texas.

If the RACES Provision has been invoked during a Declared Emergency, ONLY those Amateur Radio Operators who are specifically authorized by the Office of Emergency Management may participate!

HUNT COUNTY RACES

The Hunt County RACES organization is authorized by the Hunt County Office of Emergency Management, under the provisions of FCC Regulations Part 97.

RACES appointees are expected to have a sincere interest in providing communications as a public service of amateur radio and should have equipment capable of operating on the designated RACES frequencies listed later in this guide Each RACES Organization has their own training and participation requirements

For example Dallas County and Garland require participation in a minimum of 18 on-the–air training nets per year. Each applicant should understand the commitment required by their organization prior to submitting their application.

Amateur Radio Emergency Service

ARES is a public service organization coordinated by the American Radio Relay League. It consists of licensed Amateur Radio Operators who have voluntarily registered their qualifications and equipment to provide emergency communications for public service events as needed.

ARES groups are dedicated to serving the communities where they live, working hand in hand with the American Red Cross, local and state governments, and other nonprofit, community-service organizations.

The central focus of ARES training and activates are to keep its members well practiced in providing emergency communications when normal means of communications have failed.

HUNT COUNTY ARES

There are nine ARES districts in the North Texas Section, the Hunt County ARES is in District 3.

ARES Membership Requirements

Every licensed amateur, regardless of membership in ARRL or any other local or national organization is eligible to apply for membership in ARES. Every licensed amateur can participate in ARES nets within their license privileges, however, additional training and certification is required participate fully in ARES.

The North Texas Section has adopted the West Gulf Division Standardized Training Plan.

Because ARES is an Amateur Radio program, only licensed radio amateurs are eligible for membership. The possession of emergency-powered equipment is desirable, but is not a requirement for membership.

A major function performed by ARES in the Hunt County area is providing information to the National Weather Service and Hunt County Emergency Operating Centers, EOC's, during periods of threatening or severe weather.

Hunt County ARES provides communications for Emergency Response agencies for training, Response, Recovery and sheltering operations. Hunt County A.R.E.Ss also provides communications services for civic events such as Parades, Bike Rallies, and special events.

Ham Radio Nets

TYPES OF RADIO COMMUNICATION NETS

SKYWARN
Disaster Response and Recovery
Sheltering and/or Relocation
Training and Education
Civic and Special Events

PRIORITY LEVELS

Level 1 – Safety of Life and Limb
Level 2 – Health and Welfare
Level 3 – Training and/or Special Events
Level 4 – Normal day-to-day activities

WHO MAY INITIATE A WEATHER RELATED NET

- ✓ **A SKYWARN Net may be initiated at the request of the National Weather Service, or a local governmental agency (i.e. city, county, state, hospital or school district)**
- ✓ **A Severe Weather Net may be invoked by any ARES Personnel when weather threatens to become severe, or to deteriorate rapidly**
- ✓ **Any Emergency Service Agency, or local Government entity may request the activation of a Net for their needs and purposes.**

NET PROTOCOL

A "Net" is an on-the-air meeting of amateur radio operators. Usually, the group's discussion centers on a particular topic-in our case, emergency communications and associated topics.

Nets are usually held on a regular basis on a pre-determined frequency. Most nets are "directed nets" meaning there are certain rules that must be followed. One operator, acting as Net Control, is responsible for moderating the conversation and keeping order on the air. When on a directed net, you should not speak unless/until you are called on by Net Control.
Think of it like a classroom - you must raise your hand and wait for the teacher to call on you before you address the class. Same thing on the air! You can imagine that if everyone spoke at once, there would be chaos.

When Net Control calls on you, you should address the group and close with your call sign. If you wish to address a comment to a particular person, you need to ask Net Control for permission first. If permission is granted, have your conversation with that person and then indicate that you are returning the frequency to Net Control.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

It is of utmost importance that the primary duty of everyone involved is to protect the lives and safety of each other and the general public. We cannot help others if we become casualties ourselves!

Remember, Life and Limb emergencies have PRIORITY in all situations!

NET CONTROL – The Ham Radio operator serving as the Control Operator (dispatcher) for the Net. Net Control shall coordinate activities, and may make assignments, as necessary. The Net Control Operator may be located in an Emergency Operating Center, or any other location suitable for the event. **ALL radio traffic is to be directed to the Net Control.**

MOBILE SPOTTERS – Those spotters who have Ham radio transceivers mounted in their vehicles, and who are actively spotting Severe Weather from their vehicles. Mobile spotters may receive requests from Net Control or NWS to travel to various locations to report on conditions. **Mobile spotters are strongly urged to work as a team of 2 or more persons, one operating the radio and the driver concentrating on driving safely!**

FIXED POSITION SPOTTERS – Also referred to as Point Spotters, Those Ham Radio Operators who are actively spotting Severe Weather from a fixed location, such as a residence, office, or business site.

TRAINING

The Ft Worth office of the National Weather Service provides annual SKYWARN training each spring for every county in the North Texas area. This training is also available during Ham-Com each June, and is available on-line through several sources.

The National Incident Management System, NIMS, training is available on-line and in person through several State and local Emergency Management agencies.

NIMS provides a common language, and a common operational framework, for planning, response, and recovery efforts across a broad spectrum of emergency, and non-emergency situations.
Hunt County ARES members should become familiar with NIMS, and should take ICS-100 and ICS-200. These are very basic "familiarization" courses designed to provide the student with a glimpse into the "bigger picture" of the standardized structure, terminology, and personnel roles in Emergency Management.

At a minimum, ARES members should be proficient in Emergency First Aid and CPR, as we have no way of predicting what predicament we may encounter.

HUNT COUNTY A.R.E.S.

EMERGENCY NET PREAMBLE for SEVERE WEATHER NETS

INSTRUCTIONSFOR OPENING AND CLOSING THE NET FROM ANY LOCATION

STARTING THE NET:

1. Start a radio log for the net to include the date, start time, frequency(s) used, and operator name and call sign.

2. Tune on the radio and tune to the KSGVL/SVARA repeater 146.78 negative offset with a PL tone of 114.8 or to the proper repeater to be used if this repeater is not functional.

3. Listen to see if the frequency is in use. If it is not in use, proceed step 4. If in use, wait for a pause between transmissions and give the SKYWARN call sign (W5AMC). When acknowledged advise that there is severe weather and that the National Weather Service or Local Emergency Management has requested the activation of storm spotters and that an ARES Weather Net for Hunt County is about to begin and ask if the stations using the repeater have any emergency traffic. If they do handle the traffic and if they do not have any emergency traffic, they should turn the repeater over to you to begin the ARES Weather Net. Then proceed to step 5.

4. State the following: "THIS IS W5AMC - IS THIS FREQUENCY IN USE". If nobody responds, proceed to step 5. If someone replies advise that there is severe weather and that the National Weather Service or local emergency management has requested the activation of storm spotters and that an ARES weather net for Hunt County is about to begin and ask if the stations using the repeater have any emergency traffic. If they do handle the traffic and if they do not have any emergency traffic they should turn the repeater over to you to begin the ARES Weather Net. Then proceed to step 5.

5. State the following:
   Attention all stations, this is W5AMC activating the Hunt County ARES. Net into active status. The National Weather Service or local emergency management has requested the activation of storm spotters in Hunt County. Severe weather is imminent or occurring in Hunt County. Broadcast the most current National Weather Service Bulletin about the imminent or occurring severe weather. Note on the log that the NWS bulletin was read and also note on the announcement in the top right comer the time the bulletin is read. Keep these bulletins with the radio log.

6. State the following:
   Are there any stations with emergency or priority traffic if so please come now? If there is an emergency or priority traffic, handle the traffic, and proceed to step 7. If there is no emergency or priority traffic, proceed to step 7.

7. State the following:
   This is a directed net, and the Net Control Station W5AMC will direct all traffic on this net. Only stations having Severe Weather Reports, which meet the National Weather Service reporting criteria, should break this net. Examples of this reporting criteria are: Tornado on the ground, Funnel Clouds, Rotating Wall Clouds, Hail ½ inch or greater in diameter, winds 50 MPH or greater, Flooding or Storm Damage or other threats to life or safety.

   In the case of repeater failure, this net will move to the K5VOM repeater 441.775 positive offset and a P.L. tone of 100.0. At this time, I will begin taking check-ins, please come with your call sign phonetically two times slowly and state your location.

   Log the call sign, time, and station location on the radio log.

8. Continue to broadcast the most current National Weather Service Bulletins about the imminent or occurring severe weather. Note on the log that the NWS bulletin was read and also on the announcement in the top right comer the time the bulletin was broadcast. Keep these bulletins with the radio log.

9. In the absence of any reports or traffic, you should ask for station check in every 10-20 minutes depending on circumstances.

10. Log any reports from storm spotters, including their call sign, time, location, and information reported.

11. You must still follow FCC station identification rules and identify after every transmission or every ten minutes.

SECURING THE NET

When the severe weather has passed, and the NWS or local emergency management has advised that storm spotters may stand down the net will be secured in the following manner.

1. State the following:
   Attention all Stations, this is W5AMC, Net Control Station for the Hunt County ARES Net. The net is closing at this time. The threat of severe weather has passed, and there is no longer a need for a formal net at this time. I want to thank all stations for their participation in this net. Your help is much appreciated. I will now return this frequency to regular use, W5AMC clear.

2. Show on the log the time that the net was closed.

3. Place all log sheets in order along with the National Weather Service Bulletins and staple them together. The log and bulletins then should be given to TAMU-C EOC for record keeping.

SKYWARN Severe Weather

THE STORM SPOTTERS CHECKLIST
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

What the NWS needs to know:

- ✓ What is happening?
- ✓ Time of event
- ✓ Location of event (Secondary: your location)

Standard Severe Weather Reporting

Supercell Clues

Mid and Upper Level Clues

- ☐ Thick Anvil
- ☐ Crisp, cauliflower texture to updraft tower
- ☐ Round Updraft Tower
- ☐ Mid level cloud bands
- ☐ Striations

Low Level Clues

- ☐ Rain Free Base
- ☐ Warm, moist air flowing into the storm (inflow)
- ☐ Inflow bands
- ☐ Shelf cloud
- ☐ Wall cloud
- ☐ Tail cloud
- ☐ Rising scud, becoming more organized with time.

Is the tornado threat increasing?

- ☐ Circular updraft base
- ☐ Increasing spin in wall cloud / cloud base
- ☐ Increasing inflow
- ☐ Rapid vertical motions near wall cloud
- ☐ Clear slot formation
- ☐ Rain burst behind the wall cloud or a rain curtain surrounding wall cloud

Wall Cloud

- ☐ Slope down and towards rain
- ☐ Maintain their position with respect to the rain (moves along with the rain)
- ☐ Form under a smooth, flat updraft base

Shelf Cloud

- ☐ Slope down and away from rain
- ☐ Changes position with respect to the rain (moves away from rain)
- ☐ Form above a ragged, choppy downdraft base.

MINIMUM REPORTING CRITERIA

FUNNEL or WALL CLOUD SPOTTED

ALL OTHER REPORTS CEASE WHEN A FUNNEL OR WALL CLOUD IS REPORTED!!

FUNNEL

- ☐ Is surface damage occurring?
- ☐ Is funnel visible Half-way to ground?
- ☐ What are your location's GPS coordinates?
- ☐ Direction and Distance from you to Funnel?

WALL CLOUD

- ☐ Is there visible Rotation in the cloud?
- ☐ Is the surface damage occurring?
- ☐ Where is the updraft located on the wall cloud?
- ☐ What are you locations GPS coordinates?
- ☐ Direction and rate of travel of wall cloud?

HAIL LARGER THAN ¼ INCH

- ☐ What are your location's GPS coordinates?
- ☐ What is the estimated size of the hail? (inches / coin size?)
- ☐ How much is falling (Occasional/Heavy)

DAMAGING WINDS (OVER 50MPH)

- ☐ What are your location's GPS coordinates?
- ☐ Is the wind speed greater than 50 MPH? (Can't walk against the wind)
- ☐ What is the direction of movement?
- ☐ Briefly describe the damage that is occurring?

FLASH FLOODING

- ☐ Is water flowing across the road? (Is there a current?)
  CURB DEEP WATER DOES NOT MEET MINIMUM REPORTING CRITERIA.
- ☐ Is rising water threatening life or property?
- ☐ Are children playing in culverts or flood waters?

RAIN OVER 1 INCH PER HOUR (Visibility less than five car lengths)

- ☐ What are your location's GPS coordinates?
- ☐ What is the estimated rainfall in inches/hour?

ESTIMATING WIND SPEED

Measured reports are much more desirable than estimated reports.

They are generally much more accurate. Sometimes it's hard to estimate properly under severe weather conditions. Over-estimating is as bad as or worse than under-estimating storm criteria.

WIND SPEED ESTIMATION

32-38 mph:	Whole trees in motion. Some resistance when walking
39-46 mph:	Twigs and small branches (1-3" diameter) broken off trees
47-54 mph:	Chimney covers and roof tiles blown off. TV antennas damaged. Lots of twigs and small branches on the ground.
55-63 mph:	Roof damage begins to occur. Small trees blown over or uprooted
64-75 mph:	Widespread damage occurs. Large trees uprooted or blown over.
75-112 mph:	Severe and extensive damage. Roofs peeled off. Windows broken. RVs and small mobile homes overturned. Moving cars pushed off roads.

STANDARDIZED REPORTING FORMAT

To assist you in emergency situations a standardized reporting format has been developed that follows the letters **HAND.**

H = HAVE = What type of emergency do you HAVE? Is it Fire, accident with injury, medical?

A = AT = You are AT_____ An address or distance and direction from the nearest major intersection.

N = NEED = What assistance do you NEED? Fire Truck, Police, Ambulance, etc.

D = DETAILS = What DETAILS will help responders?

DETAILS are those things that the responders need to know BEFORE they arrive on the scene. For instance, is there a fire, or fuel or chemical spill? Are there fumes, are there multiple victims, is there a hazard they need to prepare for?

If there is a Hazardous Material Placard on a vehicle involved in the accident the large black number tells the responders what material they will have to deal with, however,

DO NOT APPROACH VEHICLES THAT DISPLAY HAZARDOUS MATERIAL PLACARDS!

If you can't see it from your location, don't go closer; just tell the dispatcher that there is a placard.

H – " I HAVE A _____

A – AT _____

N – I NEED "(Fire, police, ambulance)"

D – (DETAILS) _____

SAFETY! SAFETY! SAFETY !

We cannot over emphasize the constant need of maintaining Situational Awareness! Be vigilant in watching for debris, downed power lines, flooding and unwary drivers "rubbernecking".

We are here to help, and we cannot be of assistance if we ourselves become casualties of the event!

HUNT COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO FREQUENCIES

During a severe weather event, Net Control may request that several hams also monitor radio traffic on the SKYWARN frequencies of surrounding cities and counties in order to maintain Situational Awareness.

PRIMARY VHF REPEATER – 146.780 (-0.6 input, PL 114.8) Ω

PRIMARY VHF Simplex – 146.780 (open squelch)

PRIMARY UHF REPEATER – 441.775 (+5, pl 100.0)

SECONDARY VHF REPEATER – 147.160 (+0.6 input, PL 100.0)

Multi-agency Mobile VHF – 146.550 (open squelch)

Other local repeaters:

TAMU-C VHF – 147.020 (+0.6, pl 167.9) Ω
TAMU-C UHF – 444.520 (+5, pl 103.5) Ω

Majors Field UHF – 444.625 (+5, pl 100.0)

N5SN UHF - 443.900 (+5 pl 100.0)

K5VOM VHF - 224.900 (-1.6 , pl 100.0)
K5VOM UHF - 441.975 (+5, DMR)

Ω TAMU-C VHF & UHF will be linked to PRIMARY VHF during Skywarn operations.
One or more repeaters may be linked together to increase coverage density.

HUNT COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCIES

Hunt County Emergency Management – 903-408-4246
E.O.C. 903-408-4246

Greenville Emergeny Management – 903-457-2900
E.O.C. 903-457-2900

Commerce Emergency Management – 903-886-1139
E.O.C. 903-886-1181

Texas A&M-Commerce Emergency Management - 903-886-5868
E.O.C. 903-468-8715

Hunt Regional Hospital Emergency Management – Greenville 903-408-5000
E.O.C. 903-408-1277

HUNT COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICE FREQUENCIES *

Hunt County Sheriff – Primary 155.8350
Secondary – 159.8025 North, and 158.925 South

Hunt County EMS, Fire and Rescue – Primary 154.0925
Secondary – 154.0100

Greenville Police Department – Primary 158.7375
Secondary 155.4900

Greenville Fire Department – 453.6000

Commerce Police Department –158.8050

Commerce Fire Department -154.1900

Texas A&M-Commerce Police – 156.2100

* See the current ICS-205 Communications Plan for details

HUNT COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICE AGENCIES

Hunt County Sheriff - 903-453-6838

Hunt County EMS, Fire and Rescue - 903-454-2222

Greenville Police Department – 903-457-2900

Greenville Fire Department – 903-457-2940

Commerce Police Department – 903-886-1139

Commerce Fire Department – 903-886-1147

Reporting Message Forms

ARRL Message Form

ARRL — the national association for Amateur Radio™

RADIOGRAM

NUMBER	PRECEDENCE	HX	STATION OF ORIGIN	CHECK	PLACE OF ORIGIN	TIME FILED	DATE

TO

PHONE NUMBER

E-MAIL

THIS RADIO MESSAGE WAS RECEIVED AT

AMATEUR STATION _____ PHONE _____

NAME _____ E-MAIL _____

STREET _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP _____

FROM DATE TIME

REC'D

This message was handled at no charge by a licensed Amateur Radio operator, whose address is shown in the box at right above. No compensation can be accepted by a "ham" operator. A return message may be filed with the "ham" delivering this message to you. Further information on Amateur Radio may be obtained from ARRL Headquarters, 225 Main Street, Newington, CT 06111 or www.arrl.org.

TO DATE TIME

SENT

The ARRL is the national association for Amateur Radio and the publisher of *QST* magazine. One of its functions is promotion of public service communication among Amateur Radio operators. To that end, the ARRL has organized the National Traffic System for daily nationwide message handling.

1320 2/11

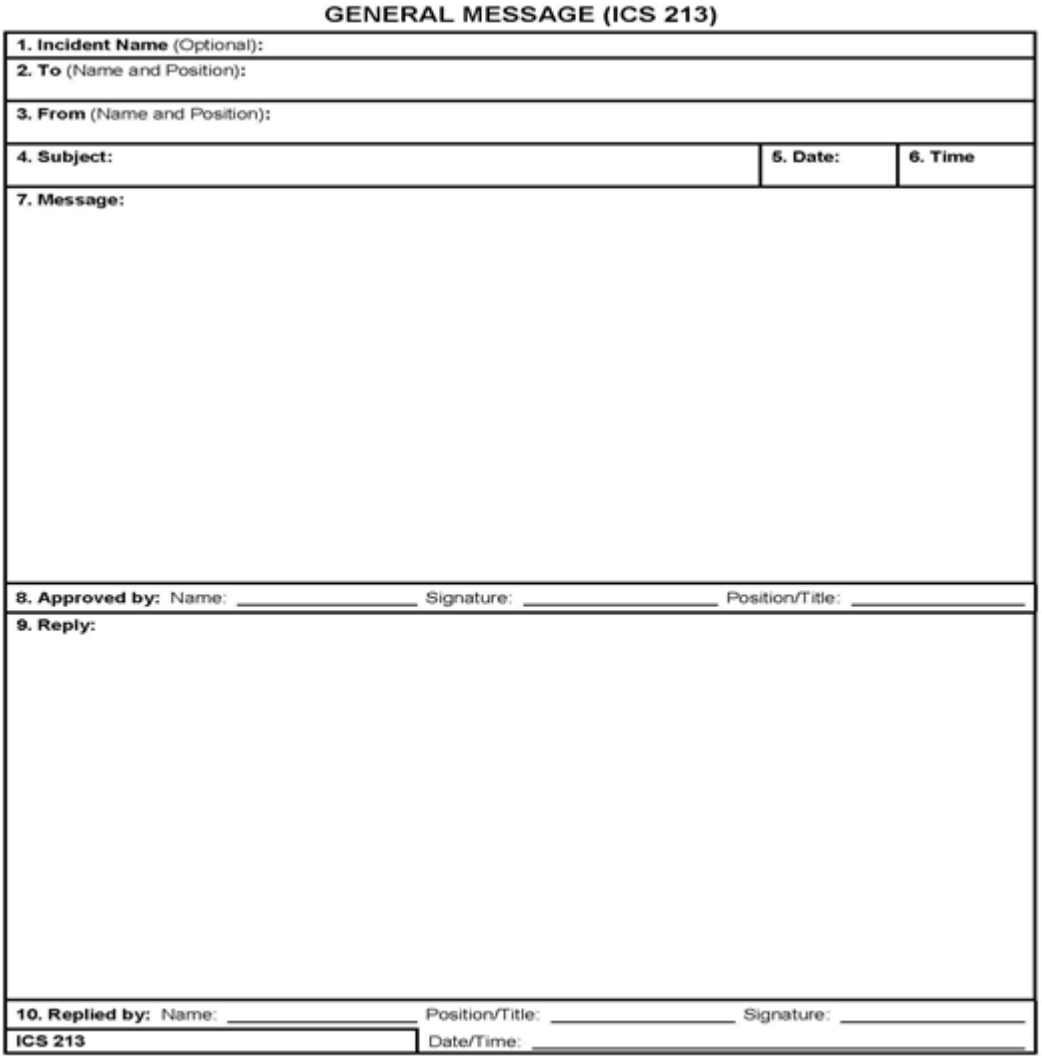
The Arrl form is intended for Ham-to-Ham use. It is used extensively in the National Traffic System for relaying messages of all types.

It is not an official governmental document.

Limitations of Amateur Radio in Disaster Communications.

During a disaster or emergency the need may arise for patient information to be sent via Amateur Radio. Patient privacy is a serious concern of health care and public health professionals and is protected through the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA). In the rare case that patient information is requested to be sent via Amateur Radio, while it is not the role of the radio operator to determine what is and is not permitted under HIPAA, it may be appropriate for the operator to remind their immediate supervisor or the originator of the message that **there can be no expectation of privacy because encryption of information sent via Amateur Radio is not permitted under Part 97 rules.**

NIMS ICS-213 Message Form



GENERAL MESSAGE (ICS 213)

1. Incident Name (Optional):		
2. To (Name and Position):		
3. From (Name and Position):		
4. Subject:	**5. Date:**	**6. Time**
7. Message:		
8. Approved by: Name: _____ Signature: _____ Position/Title: _____		
9. Reply:		
10. Replied by: Name: _____ Position/Title: _____ Signature: _____		
ICS 213	Date/Time: _____	

The ICS-213 General Message form is intended for use by any agency.

The standard ICS Form ICS 213 has been used for a number of years for general messaging and is used to exchange most formal radio messages. This form is not restricted in the number of words that can be used in the message. The ICS 213 is described as a general message form. It serves both as a sending document as well as a response document. When used operationally for either exercises or actual emergencies, the document becomes part of the permanent record of the operation.

Should FEMA become involved, only paperwork submitted on NIMS ICS forms will be acted upon, and any expenses, or reimbursements must be documented! **Keep in mind, as an official governmental document, it is a crime to alter any portion of the document.**

REFERENCES

ARRL Amateur Radio Emergency Service Manual
http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Public%20Service/ARES/ARESmanual2015.pdf

ARRL West Gulf Division ARES Standardized Training Plan
http://www.arrlstxvps.org/vault_area/vault_gateway/utility/download.php?fn=..%2Fdoc_repository%2Fpublic_docs%2FARES+STANDARDIZED+TRAINING+TASK+BOOK+V1.5.pdf&downsender=documents

FCC Regulations Part 97
http://www.arrl.org/part-97-text

Dallas County CLOUD COWBOY Manual
www.dallasraces.org/ccrm

Fannin County STORM COWBOY Manual
www.k5frc.org

New York City A.R.E.C.S.
www.nyc-arecs.org/ops.html

Texas Division of Emergency Management
http://www.dps.texas.gov/dem/Operations/amateurRadioSupport.htm

The Hunt County Emergency Management Plan
http://www.huntcounty.net/index.aspx?nid=1000

FEMA National Incident Management System
https://www.fema.gov/national-incident-management-system