

**GREENE COUNTY (OHIO)**  
**AMATEUR RADIO EMERGENCY SERVICE®**



***EMERGENCY  
OPERATIONS PLAN***  
***(GCARES EOP)***

**2016**

(Last update 02/29/2016)



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## **SECTION 1. INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 PURPOSE**

This *Emergency Operations Plan* (EOP) provides policies, procedures and guidelines for operation of the Amateur Radio Emergency Service within Greene County, Ohio. The EOP provides a general countywide operational plan and specific response plans for designated support teams serving local governments and other served agencies

### **1.2 MISSION**

*To deploy Amateur Radio resources to provide effective and efficient supplemental communication networks for served agencies when normal communication systems become disrupted or inadequate.*

### **1.3 GOALS**

- (1) To recruit, organize, train and coordinate dedicated Amateur Radio emergency communications personnel within Greene County.
  - (2) To establish and maintain working relationships with served agencies including memoranda of understanding and permanent antennas and designated operating positions for Amateur Radio communications.
  - (3) To develop and maintain coordinated countywide and local-area Emergency Response Plans for deploying Amateur Radio emergency communication resources within Greene County and for providing mutual aid assistance to ARES units in surrounding counties when requested.
  - (4) To periodically exercise and test the Emergency Response Plans and update policies, procedures and guidelines, as appropriate.
  - (5) To provide communications support for a limited number of public service events as a means of training Amateur Radio personnel in network operations.
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## **SECTION 2. ORGANIZATIONAL OVERVIEW**

### **2.1 GREENE COUNTY ARES® (GCARES) is:**

- a countywide organization of volunteer Amateur Radio Operators
- dedicated to training and preparedness
- to provide supplemental communications support
- for public safety agencies and other disaster response organizations
- in the event of a disaster or other communication emergency situation
- when normal communication systems become disrupted or inadequate

### **2.2 THE AMATEUR RADIO SERVICE — A National Resource**

(1) The Amateur Radio Service is composed of radio operators who are licensed by the Federal Communications Commission after passing a written examination on their knowledge of communications procedures, regulations and technical skills in the operation of radio communications equipment.

(2) The Amateur Radio Service operates within allocated frequency bands throughout the radio spectrum in accordance with international treaties agreed under the International Telecommunications Union (ITU).

(3) Almost every nation allocates valuable radio spectrum to the amateur radio service because of its ability to immediately respond in time of need and to quickly establish supplemental, and often vital, communication links and networks. Amateur radio provides a unique resource of skilled communications personnel, equipment and systems which have a very high survivability rate for continuity of service.

(4) Amateur Radio has a proud tradition and honored history of providing public service communications support during emergencies and other events. Generally, this service is most important when public safety communication systems and/or telephone service is overloaded (inadequate) or disrupted. The classic examples include floods, tornadoes, fires, hurricanes, earthquakes and other natural disasters. Amateur Radio also serves the public interest by providing support communications during community events such a walk-a-thons, marathons, parades, and other charitable/non-commercial activities.

### **2.3 AMATEUR RADIO EMERGENCY SERVICE® (ARES®)**

The Amateur Radio Emergency Service® (ARES®) is a nationwide field organization of the American Radio Relay League (ARRL), the National Association for Amateur Radio, and is managed by respective Emergency Coordinators at the state, district and county level. It is at the county level where most of the emergency preparedness planning, organizing and training is accomplished, because this is the level at which most emergencies occur and the level at which ARES leaders have direct contact with the ARES members, with local amateur radio clubs and groups, and with officials of the local served

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agencies. ARES has been serving the public in a communications support capacity since 1913.

## 2.4 **GREENE COUNTY ARES® (GCARES)**

The Greene County Amateur Radio Emergency Service (GCARES) is part of the nine county West Central Ohio District (Ohio ARES District 3) of the Ohio Section ARES. GCARES is comprised of licensed amateurs who reside and/or work in Greene County and who have voluntarily registered their qualifications and equipment and have expressed a desire to organize, train and be prepared to provide communications support for served agencies in the event of a disaster or other emergency incident when normal communication systems become disrupted or inadequate.

## 2.5 **GCARES LEADERSHIP**

(1) Greene County ARES is directed by the Greene County **Emergency Coordinator (EC)**. Three **Deputy Emergency Coordinators** have been appointed to act on behalf of the Emergency Coordinator in his absence.

(2) **Assistant Emergency Coordinators (AEC's)** have been selected and appointed by the Greene County EC to effectively manage respective functions and geographical areas of the GCARES unit. AEC's are the GCARES liaisons with the respective Greene County townships, communities, amateur radio clubs and local amateur radio emergency support groups.

(3) The GCARES **Emergency Coordinator-in-Charge (ECIC)** is the Deputy EC, AEC or a designated ARES member who directs the overall amateur radio emergency communication operation within Greene County [the **GCARES Incident Commander**].

(4) There may be several AEC's, each directing operations in his/her respective local area, when an incident involves more than one local area. In such incident, the ECIC or his designee will provide general overall coordination, guidance and support [**GCARES Unified Command**].

(5) A **GCARES Planning Committee**, comprised of the EC, the Deputy EC's, the AEC's and representatives of each supporting club or group, meets periodically to review and update the GCARES operational plans and guidelines, to evaluate ARES and SKYWARN activities and to develop projects, training and drills to keep the GCARES active, trained and well prepared.

## 2.6 **GCARES SUPPORT GROUPS**

(1) GCARES Support Groups are the various Greene County amateur radio clubs and other amateur radio groups that, jointly, support the entire County and, individually, support specific served agencies within Greene County. These groups include the

- Beaver Creek Amateur Radio Emergency Group (Beaver Creek & Beaver Creek Township)
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- Bellbrook Amateur Radio Club (BARC) (Bellbrook & Sugarcreek Township)
- Upper Valley Amateur Radio Club (UVARC) (Fairborn & Bath Township)
- Xenia Weather Amateur Radio Net (XWARN) (Xenia & Xenia Township)
- Red Cross Gem City Emergency Net (Montgomery, Greene, Preble Counties)
- Greene County Hospital Emergency Amateur Radio Team (GCHEART)
- WPAFB Amateur Radio Group

(2) As one coordinated organization, GCARES unifies and strengthens the multiple resources of amateur radio within Greene County and offers a consistent and effective auxiliary communications support service for the citizens of Greene County.

## **2.7 ARES MUTUAL ASSISTANCE**

In the event of a large scale disaster or communication emergency incident, additional amateur radio personnel and equipment support is readily available on a mutual-assistance basis from ARES groups in surrounding counties, and beyond. Such assistance generally is spontaneously offered but, if necessary, a request may be initiated by the Greene County EC or ECIC to the West Central Ohio District EC (DEC) or the Ohio Section EC (SEC). Several ARES units in surrounding counties have Communication Vans and Trailers which may be deployed to supplement Greene County Amateur Radio resources. Other amateur radio supporting resources include the Military Auxiliary Radio System (MARS) and Civil Air Patrol (CAP) radio amateurs.

## **2.8 RADIO AMATEUR CIVIL EMERGENCY SERVICE (RACES)**

(1) Greene County ARES currently has not established a dual ARES-RACES organization. This controversial subject has been considered in the past and is reconsidered periodically.

(2) RACES is a set of FCC Rules created following World War II that provides a restricted amateur radio service which may continued to serve the public even in the event that normal amateur radio service is ordered suspended by the FCC or Presidential action. In the early 1990's, prior to Desert Storm ("The Gulf War"), the Presidential War Powers Act was amended such that normal amateur operation will not automatically be suspended if the President invokes the War Powers Act. Thus, the general consensus is that there currently is little reason or benefit for creating a RACES organization. Actually, most RACES organizations function as ARES units most of the time and seldom operate under the restrictive RACES Rules.

## **2.9 MILITARY AFFILIATE RADIO SYSTEM (MARS)**

The Military Auxiliary Radio System (MARS) is a Department of Defense sponsored auxiliary communications program comprised of FCC licensed amateur radio personnel who operate disciplined and structured nets on assigned military radio frequencies. During times of disaster or communication

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emergency, the Military Auxiliary Radio System can provide supplemental communication support for military, federal, state and local agencies. GCARES maintains an active liaison with MARS in Southwest and West Central Ohio..

## **2.10 ALTERNATIVE COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS**

(1) Although a currently valid FCC Amateur Radio license is a requirement for ARES membership, GCARES will establish Liaison Stations to utilize and interface with alternative communication systems, as available and as appropriate, to support its served agencies and to “get the job done.” Such alternative systems include Citizens Band Radio (CB), Family Radio Service (FRS), General Mobile Radio Service (GMRS), Multi-Use Radio Service (MURS) and commercial/industrial radio systems utilized by some disaster relief organizations and private business.

(2) ARES personnel also can be trained to assist served agencies with “radio watch” and operation of the State of Ohio Multi-Agency Radio System (MARCS) radio stations.

## **2.11 SERVED AGENCIES**

(1) Primary Greene County communities, agencies and organizations supported by Greene County ARES include:

- Greene County local communities (townships, cities, villages)
  - Greene County public safety agencies (fire, EMS and law enforcement)
  - Greene County Emergency Management Agency
  - Greene County Emergency Operations Center
  - Hospitals
    - Greene Memorial Hospital
    - Soin Medical Center
    - Miami Valley Hospital South (shared responsibility with Montgomery County ARES)
    - Miami Valley Hospital—Jamestown Emergency Department
  - Greene County Combined Health District
  - Greene County Medical Reserve Corps
  - American Red Cross Dayton Area Chapter (Greene County operations)
  - Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT)
  - and other disaster relief organizations operating within Greene County
  - Other agencies and organizations supported by GCARES within Greene County may include the National Weather Service Skywarn Spotter Service, local school districts, search and rescue units, utilities, local government service departments, Ohio State Highway Patrol, Ohio Emergency Management Agency, Ohio Department of Transportation, Ohio National Guard, Greene County Civil Air Patrol Squadron, Wright Patterson Air Force Base (Medical Center, Fire Department, Command Post, Security Forces)
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- and any other appropriate public service agency/organization requiring supplemental communication networks or liaison.

(2) GCARES is a participating member of the Greene County Emergency Preparedness Committee (GCEPC) [that combined the former Greene County Bioterrorism Planning Committee (GCBPC), the Greene County Citizens Corps Council (G4C) and the Greene County Volunteer Organizations Active in Disasters (GCVOAD)] and the Greater Dayton Area Hospital Association (GDAHA) Domestic Preparedness Task Force (DPTF) Hospital Disaster Communications Subcommittee (HDCCS).

(3) Ohio Section ARES is a member of Ohio Volunteer Organizations Active in Disasters (OVOAD) and is directly affiliated with Ohio Emergency Management Agency (OEMA) with amateur radio communication facilities located within the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) in Columbus.

## **2.12 NATIONAL AGREEMENTS**

(1) ARRL—the National Association for Amateur Radio—has entered into written formal agreements with national emergency management and disaster relief organizations that officially recognize the Amateur Radio Emergency Service as a valid and trustworthy emergency communication service.

(2) The ARRL also enters into memoranda of understanding with other agencies and organizations to provide working relationships with radio amateurs providing substantial and needed communication support in serving the public.

(3) These agreements at the national level provide a framework for mutual cooperation and coordination at the local level. The national organizations include:

- American Red Cross (ARC)
  - Association of Public-Safety Communications Officers-International (APCO)
  - Boy Scouts of America
  - Citizens Corps (Department of Homeland Security)
  - Civil Air Patrol (CAP)
  - Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)
  - National Frequency Coordinators Council
  - National Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster (NVOAD)
  - Radio Emergency Associated Communication Teams (REACT)
  - Salvation Army & Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network (SATERN)
  - SKYWARN / National Weather Service (NWS)
  - Society of Broadcast Engineers (SBE)
  - United States Power Squadrons
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## **2.13 LOCAL AGREEMENTS**

(1) Greene County ARES has established formal written working relationships (MOU's) with several Greene County communities, local government agencies and other disaster response and relief organizations.

(2) MOU's have been established between GCARES and the following:

- American Red Cross Dayton Area Chapter
- Bellbrook Amateur Radio Club
- City of Fairborn
- City of Xenia
- Sugarcreek Township
- Upper Valley [Fairborn] Amateur Radio Club
- Xenia Township
- Xenia Weather Amateur Radio Net

(3) MOU's with other organizations are in progress.

## **2.14 TYPICAL COMMUNICATIONS SUPPORT**

(1) Situations for which Greene County ARES may become involved generally result from severe weather such as tornados, thunderstorms, floods, blizzards and other natural disasters but also may result from a large fire, a search and rescue operation for a lost or missing person, a large scale transportation system accident, a hazardous materials incident, a power grid failure, a telephone system failure, etc., or the failure of any mission critical public safety communication system.

(2) Generally, Greene County ARES will provide VHF/UHF tactical communication networks by activating permanently installed served agency amateur radio stations and by setting up portable, mobile and handheld amateur radio stations at key locations within the affected Greene County area, as requested by Greene County EMA or the served agencies. Such locations may include EOC's, command posts, staging areas, shadowing key officials, public safety dispatch centers, fire stations, police headquarters, triage areas, hospitals (and disaster medical overflow facilities), local public health department DOC and field operations, shelters, aid and feeding stations, transportation units, served agency EOC's/DOC's, search and rescue units, service departments, Ohio National Guard Armory, local radio stations, and other sites as needed.

(3) GCARES also can request "mutual assistance" from ARES units in adjacent counties to deploy amateur radio personnel to related key locations—i.e., hospitals, radio/TV stations, Red Cross HQ in Dayton, National Weather Service in Wilmington, EMA offices and the Ohio Emergency Management Agency in Columbus. Both VHF & HF amateur radio links are available for direct tactical voice and data communications into the Ohio EMA SEOC Communications Center and with the regional and statewide amateur radio traffic networks.

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## **2.15 TACTICAL MESSAGE TRAFFIC**

During the early stages of an emergency situation, amateur radio stations can be used to relay tactical messages and report whatever type information is requested by served agency officials. This generally includes:

- A. Messages concerning impending or actual conditions jeopardizing public safety, safety of life and the protection of property.
- B. Messages to accumulate and disseminate public information and instructions to the civilian population.
- C. Messages to assist in ascertaining the extent and details of the situation.
- D. Messages to request supplies and resources.
- E. Messages to direct disaster relief and other support organizations as needed.
- F. It is important to remember that amateur radio operators are communicators and not decision-makers or public information officers. We do not answer for served agencies but send message traffic exactly as provided to us by served agency personnel. We do not discuss any incident information with the media.

## **2.16 HEALTH & WELFARE MESSAGE TRAFFIC**

(1) Once emergency and priority traffic is cleared, the amateur radio networks can be reconfigured or supplemented to also provide communications support for the Red Cross (and other similar support organizations) for “health & welfare” traffic.

(2) Amateur Radio has a long tradition of providing communications support for the Red Cross. A common service in disasters is relaying messages FROM a disaster area TO distant family members. This is known as Health and Welfare Traffic or Disaster Welfare Inquiry (DWI) messages and generally involves the Amateur Radio National Traffic System (NTS). A moratorium on Health and Welfare Traffic generally will be imposed for at least the first 24 hours of a disaster or other emergency incident. Personal and confidential traffic involving injuries, deaths and medical records WILL NOT be transmitted on non-secure amateur radio networks unless explicitly approved, ordered and directed by the Red Cross official in charge or the hospital official in charge. Such action would be a rare exception, unless some non-public cross-referencing identification system has been established. GCARES members are trained in proper procedures for handling private and/or sensitive traffic.

(3) Following an incident such as a hurricane or other natural disaster causing widespread property damage, amateur radio health and welfare traffic will be primarily outbound from the disaster area to distant relatives. With widespread property damage and displacement of disaster victims, it becomes very difficult,

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if not impossible, to deliver inbound messages. Inbound messages should be referred directly to the American Red Cross which will be creating lists of victims, evacuees and those remaining in-place.

## **2.17 SKYWARN SEVERE WEATHER NET ACTIVATION**

In the event of severe weather during any emergency or public service deployment, GCARES may need to activate a Greene County Weather Net to receive and relay severe weather observation to the National Weather Service Office in Wilmington Ohio. Additional operators will be recruited to support the Weather Net but existing operators may need to perform dual duties for some period of time. A Liaison Station will be assigned to relay information, as needed, from the disaster tactical net to the weather net.

## **2.18 TYPICAL COMMUNICATION MODES**

(1) Amateur Radio generally provides communications support by relaying tactical messages and information from point-to-point or point-to-multipoint using voice communications through local amateur radio VHF/UHF repeaters and on simplex frequencies, or longer-distance state and national communications via HF (shortwave) radio.

(2) In recent years, many amateur radio groups have developed other kinds of communication services including digital and video communications. Packet radio and other digital modes allow computer-to-computer communications using radios and special modems. This is effectively an amateur radio email system using a Radio Local Area Network (RLAN). This allows detailed messages to be rapidly and accurately (and more securely) transmitted over both short and long distances and then printed to provide a 'hard copy' of the message.

(3) GCARES has been training personnel in the use of a digital amateur radio network which will provide the capability of exchanging email messages, with attachments, if desired, between EOC's, fire departments, hospitals, Red Cross and other key locations throughout Greene County, and beyond (statewide, nationwide, worldwide). Served agency personnel can operate the amateur radio station digital terminal to send email message in the event the agency does not have internet interconnectivity.

(4) Greene County ARES also launched a program in April, 2014, to develop a high speed multimedia data network across Greene County and promoted adoption by other ARES units within West Central Ohio and beyond.

(5) Television also is being used in some areas of the country to provide instant visual information about an incident, such as to assist police in crowd control, to monitor disaster scenes, and in other situations where first-hand visual observation provides a valuable advantage. The availability of amateur radio television (ATV) stations in Greene County is very limited but possibly could be deployable in an extended, critical situation.

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## 2.19 AUTHORITY

(1) Emergency communications are an important and essential part of the Amateur Radio Service. The Communications Act of 1934 created the Federal Communications Commission and established the regulations which govern communications in the United States. Part 97 (47CFR) of that Act pertains to the Amateur Radio Service. The following paragraphs are excerpts from Part 97 which grant specific authorization for amateur radio emergency communications.

(2) **47CFR Part 97, Subpart A, 97.1 Basis and purpose.**

*The rules and regulations in this part are designed to provide an amateur radio service having a fundamental purpose as expressed in the following principles:*

- (a) ***Recognition and enhancement of the value of the amateur service to the public as a voluntary noncommercial communication service particularly with respect to providing emergency communications.***

In its 1989 revision of Part 97, the FCC included an entire section, Subpart E, on providing emergency communications.

(3) **47CFR Part 97, Subpart E, 97.401 Operation during a disaster.**

- (a) ***When normal communication systems are overloaded, damaged or disrupted because a disaster has occurred, or is likely to occur, in an area where the amateur service is regulated by the FCC, an amateur station may make transmissions necessary to meet essential communication needs and facilitate relief actions.***

(4) **47CFR Part 97, Subpart E, 97.403 Safety of life and protection of property.**

***No provision of these rules prevents the use of an amateur station of any means of radiocommunications at its disposal to provide essential communication needs in connection with the immediate safety of human life and immediate protection of property when normal communication systems are not available.***

## 2.20 GCARES TRAINING & DRILLS

Periodic training exercises and drills will be conducted to keep personnel skilled in techniques required for providing communications support for served agencies. Some drills will be conducted in conjunction with served agency training exercises in order that both the hams and the served agency personnel develop a good working relationship and understand the needs and capabilities of one another..

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## 2.21 ARES PERSONNEL LIMITATIONS

(1) Greene County ARES personnel are volunteer radio communication specialists who have invested considerable personal time and expense in developing their amateur radio facilities, capabilities and skills in preparation to provide supplemental communications support for served agencies in times of disaster or other emergency situation when normal communication channels become inadequate to handle required communications.

(2) GCARES personnel have made a commitment to perform a communications service and should not be asked to perform other duties unrelated to this role. Personnel may not be sufficiently trained or motivated to perform or coordinate other types of service and, therefore, must refrain from accepting such responsibilities without specific approval of the GCARES supervising Emergency Coordinator.

## 2.22 MEETINGS & INFORMATION EXCHANGE

Periodic meetings of Greene County ARES members will be held as needed. However, on-going communications between GCARES coordinators and members generally will take place via announcements at club meeting, in club newsletters, on the weekly Greene County Traffic & Information Net, and via packet radio and email. This process should keep members updated on current activities and any changes to this Plan. Printed copies of Greene County ARES Bulletins will be distributed at club meeting and mailed to others as needed.

## 2.23 PLAN DISTRIBUTION & MAINTENANCE

(1) This GCARES *Emergency Operations Plan* document will serve as the basic guideline for coordination and communication between GCARES, supporting amateur radio groups and individuals, and served agencies within Greene County and surrounding area. Copies of this document will be distributed to each supporting group and served agency.

(2) Copies of this document shall be available to other interested individuals or groups at the cost of printing and distribution.

(3) The master version of this plan shall be kept by the Emergency Coordinator with back-up files distributed for safe-keeping.

## 2.24 UPDATES & CORRECTIONS

(1) Each GC ARES member, supporting group, and served agency is requested to submit any updates and/or corrections to the GCARES EC in a timely manner in order to keep the Plan accurate, current and useful.

(2) The Planning Committee will review this document on at least an annual basis and effect updates, changes and corrections as appropriate. Interim updates will be distributed as GC ARES Bulletins.

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## **2.25 SUGGESTIONS**

The GCARES Planning Committee welcomes suggestions and constructive criticism for making this a more realistic, practical and effective Plan. Such input should be sent to the Emergency Coordinator or may be forwarded through a Deputy EC or an Assistant EC.

## **2.26 APPROVAL OF THE PLAN**

Each support group and served agency is requested to indicate its understanding and approval of this plan by entering into a Memorandum of Understanding with GCARES.

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## **SECTION 3. EMERGENCY RESPONSE GUIDELINES**

### **3.1 PURPOSE**

(1) This document has been prepared to provide a general overview of the GCARES policies, procedures and guidelines involved in providing and coordinating amateur radio communications support for served agencies within Greene County in the event of a disaster, severe weather or other emergency situation.

(2) The basic phases of the **GCARES Emergency Response Plan** are Notification, Activation, Mobilization, Deployment, Operations, Deactivation and Debriefing. The preliminary requirements are Organization, Planning and Preparedness.

### **3.2 NOTIFICATION**

#### **(1) DIRECT REQUEST**

The standard form of notification [of an incident] is a direct request from a served agency to a GCARES Contact Person. Each served agency has been supplied with a Contact List and Notification Procedure for alerting the key personnel of the response group supporting the respective agency. Once notified, the respective contact person will follow established procedures for mobilizing and deploying the required Amateur Radio resources.

#### **(2) PERSONAL AWARENESS**

Because of the diversity and widespread distribution of amateur radio personnel across Greene County, hams often are aware of actual or potential emergencies before a Served Agency requests assistance. Such awareness may result from personal observation, direct involvement or second-hand information (scanner, radio-TV, word-of-mouth, etc.).

#### **(3) PRE-DETERMINED CONDITIONS**

ARES generally is not a "first responder" and generally does NOT self-deploy. However, ARES may self-deploy under certain pre-determined conditions per agreements with served agencies. When such conditions exist or are suspected, GCARES leaders may initiate Activation and Deployment as appropriate.

#### **(4) DO NOT CALL SERVED AGENCIES**

In the event of an actual or suspected incident, DO NOT contact police, fire or other served agencies offering to help! GCARES maintains agreements and pre-arranged procedures with served agencies. In a disaster or other emergency incident, served agencies will be busy reacting to the incident and will not appreciate such a call. We need to be part of the solution--not part of the problem.

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### 3.3 ACTIVATION

(1) **MONITOR EMERGENCY FREQUENCY---LISTEN...LISTEN...LISTEN !!!**

Any amateur who becomes aware of an actual, potential or suspected emergency situation should monitor the **Greene County Primary Emergency Frequency – XWARN 147.165 MHz Repeater (+)(123.0 PL)** to ascertain if a net has been activated or if anyone else is aware of the situation. If the frequency is active, **LISTEN!!! & DO NOT TRANSMIT** unless you have emergency or priority traffic or the specific information being requested. Continue to monitor and listen for instructions.

(2) **IF NO ACTIVITY, ACTIVATE INFORMATION & ALERTING NET**

(A) If there is NO activity or just casual conversation on the **Greene County Primary Emergency Frequency – XWARN 147.165 MHz Repeater (+)(123.0 PL)**, make an announcement about the actual or suspected situation and request other monitoring stations to check-in. You have just activated an Information & Alerting Net. Appoint someone to contact the EC or one of the Deputy EC's to report the actual or suspected situation. Contact information is listed under "Quick Start" (RED TAB).

(B) Continue to announce the situation, request and log check-ins and request stations to Standby. Log all activity and continue until relieved by a Net Control Operator or another station.

(3) **IF 147.165 REPEATER NOT WORKING, GO TO BACKUP FREQUENCY**

(A) If the **Greene County Primary Emergency Frequency – XWARN 147.165 MHz Repeater (+)(123.0 PL)** is not working and if there is **NO Emergency Net Activity** on 147.165 SIMPLEX, go to the **Greene County Backup Emergency Frequency – BARC 147.045 MHz Repeater (+)(no PL)**, make an announcement about the actual or suspected situation and request other monitoring stations to check-in. You have just activated an Information & Alerting Net. Appoint someone to contact the EC or one of the Deputy EC's to report the actual or suspected situation. Contact information is listed under "Quick Start" (RED TAB).

(B) Continue to announce the situation, request and log check-ins and request stations to Standby. Log all activity and continue until relieved by a Net Control Operator or another station.

(4) **NOTIFY EMERGENCY COORDINATORS**

Appoint stations to contact the EC and respective AECs, designated Net Control Stations and Liaison Stations. Contact information is listed under "Quick Start" (RED TAB).

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**(5) NET CONTROL STATIONS (NCS)**

Continue to alert operators and discuss the situation until an Emergency Coordinator or Experienced Net Control Station (NCS) comes on frequency with additional information and a plan. If you are not comfortable being Net Control, ask another station to take over as NCS until one comes on frequency.

**(6) LIAISON STATIONS (LS)**

If it appears this is a major or widespread incident, appoint Liaison Stations (LS) to make announcement on the BARC and UVARC repeaters to alert additional operators, and to monitor the West Central Ohio District 3 ARES RESOURCE NET Frequency (145.110(-) MHz) and statewide (3875 KHz) ARES emergency frequencies. Appoint a Liaison Station to the Weather Net if it is in operation.

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### **3.4 MOBILIZATION**

#### **(1) RESOURCE NET**

**(A)** Mobilization will begin by converting the informal Information Net to a Resource Net.

**(B)** The Resource Net will be used to announce the situation, take check-ins, recruit operators and equipment, and assign operators to EOCs and other strategic sites.

**(C)** The Resource Net will be on 147.165 MHz (+) unless a Weather Net is operational. If a Weather Net is operational, the Resource Net frequency will be 147.105 MHz (+), or other frequency determined by the Emergency Coordinator-in-Charge (ECIC). The Weather Net NCS should periodically announce the Resource Net frequency.

#### **(2) TACTICAL NET**

**(A)** Tactical Net will be activated for operational communications between the EOCs and other assigned sites and with stations reporting in from the scene.

**(B)** Tactical Nets will refuse to take general check-ins and will periodically announce the Resource Net frequency and other information.

**(C)** Additional Tactical Nets may be activated to handle emergency and priority traffic for specific functional requirements and/or to support specific served agencies (such as Red Cross, Greene Memorial Hospital, etc.).

**(D)** Designated Net Control Operators will activate Tactical Nets on appropriate frequencies and will assign Liaison Station between the respective Tactical Nets and the Resource.

### **3.5 DEPLOYMENT**

#### **(1) ASSIGNMENTS**

Assignments and instructions will be made on the Resource Net. Assignments will include EOC's, fire stations, hospitals, health department, Red Cross shelters and activities, public works, other strategic sites and other disaster relief units.

#### **(2) PERSONAL HEALTH, SAFETY & SURVIVAL**

**(A)** Operators should be certain that their families and personal property are safe and secure before volunteering to go help others. If your property and family are in the vicinity of the incident, consider whether you should stay with your family at your property or at an evacuation site rather than deploying to support GCARES. Use good judgment!

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**(B)** If you do volunteer for deployment, be sure you are prepared with proper equipment, food and water, clothing and other necessities for maintaining your health and safety. GCARES members deploy at their own risk and are responsible for their own safety and survival. GCARES members are volunteers and have the right to refuse any assignment for any or no reason.

**(3) JUMP KITS (GO-KITS, READY-KITS)**

All GCARES members should have, readily available, a One-Day Jump Kit. This kit should include the basic radio equipment and personal supplies (water, snacks/food, clothing, rain gear, personal hygiene, etc.) required to set up the initial station at an assigned site and to sustain the operator until additional operators, equipment and supplies can be deployed to the site. A list of suggested items for both the One-Day Kit and a Three-Day Kit is included in the Reference Section of this EOP.

**(4) ENROUTE TO ASSIGNMENT**

Maintain contact with your assigned Net while enroute to your assigned site. Advise NCS of any delays (traffic gridlock, blocked roads, detours, etc.) in reaching your assignment. Advise NCS upon arrival at your site.

**(5) ARRIVAL AT ASSIGNMENT & STATION SETUP**

**(A)** Upon arrival at a specific site, locate the Site Manager, introduce yourself and agree on a location for setting up your station.

**(B)** Stations should be set up in a convenient location with easy access to site officials and other personnel for whom communications will be provided. The location should have easy access to an outside antenna, if needed, and to emergency power if available. At a shelter, the station should be isolated from the sleeping area.

**(C)** The location of the station operating position may require some discussion and negotiating if the Site Manager suggests a location which may create current or future problems. Contact NCS if you cannot resolve any issues.

**(D)** Advise NCS after setting up the station and becoming operational at the site. Standby to handle traffic.

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### **3.6 OPERATIONS**

- (1)** Remember that Net Control is in charge of the respective net and will make decisions. Follow his(her) instructions. The respective ECIC (EC-in-charge) will be in consultation with Net Control Stations, served agencies and other emergency management official and will be providing overall direction and guidance for the amateur radio emergency communications operation.
- (2)** A Technical Team will be available to help maintain and/or improve stations, as needed, for effective operations. This may involve installing masts and outside antennas, supplying higher power radios, providing additional power supplies, batteries and/or generators, etc.).
- (3)** Multiple operators and relief operators will be assigned each site, as available, especially during the early, hectic hours of an incident, to reduce fatigue and tension.
- (4)** Operators must maintain logs and keep record of all operations at each station, especially messages sent and received. This will help piece together all elements of an operation for an After Action Report and for the Debriefing.
- (5)** Operators should be self-sufficient with food and water for the first 24 hours. During that time, provisions for feeding volunteers should be established. The ECIC will arrange for food to be delivered to operators [and other workers] at remote sites.
- (6)** Contact NCS for any personal needs, equipment problems or other information regarding the ongoing operation.

### **3.7 DEACTIVATION**

- (1)** All station will continue operating from an assigned site until directed to secure by Net Control. NCS will announce as different site are nearing a time for closing in order for operators to prepare to secure.
  - (2)** Once given the OK to secure by NCS, the operator(s) should advise the Site Manager and make sure there is no further need for the station and amateur radio communications support at that site. If all agree, secure the station.
  - (3)** Gather up all paperwork (logs, messages, etc.), equipment, antennas, masts, cables, personal gear, etc. Call for help to secure, if necessary. You are responsible for removing, transporting and protecting all equipment associated with the station whether it is all yours or some belongs to others.
  - (4)** Advise NCS of other people's equipment you have. Also, find out where to deliver all the paperwork and any equipment which belongs to others.
  - (5)** Advise NCS when you are ready to leave the site and, again, when you arrive at your destination. It is important that NCS be able to account for all deployed personnel.
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### **3.8 AFTER ACTION REPORTS**

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### **3.9 DEBRIEFING**

**(1)** Each operator should prepare an After-Action Report and a complete summary of his(her) deployment activities. Include any problem that need to be addressed, lessons learned (what worked; what didn't work; suggested improvements, etc.).

**(2)** All operators should plan to attend the debriefing meeting and share their experiences with the others. The debriefing exercise will help us be better prepared for the next time we are needed.

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**SECTION 4 SERVED AGENCIES & RESPONSE PLANS**

American Red Cross—Greene County Operations .....	(RED CROSS)	TAB 1
Beavercreek & Beavercreek Township .....	(BEAVERCREEK)	TAB 2
Bellbrook & Sugarcreek Township .....	(BELLBROOK)	TAB 3
Bowersville & Jefferson Township .....	(BOWERSVILLE)	TAB 4
Caesarscreek Township .....	(CAESARSCREEK)	TAB 5
Cedarville & Cedarville Township .....	(CEDARVILLE)	TAB 6
Fairborn & Bath Township .....	(FAIRBORN)	TAB 7
Greene County Combined Health District & Greene County Medical Reserve Corps .....	(GCCHD)	TAB 8
Greene County Community Emergency Response Teams .....	(CERT)	TAB 9
Greene County Emergency Management Agency & Greene County EOC .....	(GCEMA)	TAB 10
Greene County Sheriffs Office .....	(GCSO)	TAB 11
Hospitals .....	(GMH)	TAB 12
Greene Memorial Hospital		
Soin Medical Center		
Miami Valley Hospital – Jamestown Emergency Department		
Miami Valley Hospital South		
Jamestown & Silvercreek Township .....	(JAMESTOWN)	TAB 13
National Weather Service—SKYWARN .....	(NWS)	TAB 14
New Jasper Township .....	(NEW JASPER)	TAB 15
Ohio National Guard .....	(ONG)	TAB 16
Ohio State Highway Patrol .....	(OSHP)	TAB 17
Ross Township .....	(ROSS)	TAB 18
Spring Valley & Spring Valley Township .....	(SPRING VALLEY)	TAB 19
Wright Patterson Air Force Base .....	(WPAFB)	TAB 20
Xenia & Xenia Township .....	(XENIA / XENIA TWP)	TAB 21
Yellow Springs, Clifton & Miami Township .....	(YELLOW SPRINGS)	TAB 22







**SECTION 5      SUPPORT GROUPS**

American Red Cross Response Team .....	(ARCRT)	TAB 23
ARES--Greene County & Ohio .....	(ARES)	TAB 24
Beavercreek Amateur Radio Emergency Group .....	(BAREG)	TAB 25
Bellbrook Amateur Radio Club .....	(BARC)	TAB 26
Greene Memorial Hospital Response Team .....	(GMHRT)	TAB 27
Other Groups (CERT, MARS, CAP, REACT, SATERN) .....	(OTHER)	TAB 28
Upper Valley Amateur Radio Club .....	(UVARC)	TAB 29
WPAFB Amateur Radio Group .....	(WPAFBARG)	TAB 30
Xenia Weather Amateur Radio Net .....	(XWARN)	TAB 31

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**For additional information, please contact**

**Greene County  
Amateur Radio Emergency Service  
Emergency Coordinator  
Henry Ruminski W8HJR  
(937) 232-9272 (cell)  
W8HJR@ARRL.net**

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