

SECTION G. R.A.C.E.S. OPERATING PLAN
1 December 2003

SECTION G.

G. NET OPERATING PROCEDURES

**1. OPENING R.A.C.E.S. SKYWARN / EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
NETS:**

- A. Normally the National Weather Service will contact Ellis County Sheriffs Department to activate the Weather Spotter Group. They in turn will contact R.A.C.E.S. Members. (See Note 1 and 2). Ellis County Sheriffs Department will contact other appropriate Emergency Management Officials as the need arises as they are the Warning Point for Ellis County.
- B. During abnormal times the National Weather Service will contact R.A.C.E.S. Members direct due to fast changing weather conditions.
- C. Authorization is given to any Ellis County R.A.C.E.S. member to open a R.A.C.E.S. SKYWARN Net when The National Weather Service issues any of the following:
 - 1. A TORNADO WARNING OR WATCH FOR ELLIS COUNTY OR A COUNTY SURROUNDING ELLIS COUNTY.
 - 2. A SEVERE THUNDERSTORM WARNING OR WATCH FOR ELLIS COUNTY OR A COUNTY SURROUNDING ELLIS COUNTY.
 - 3. A WINTER STORM WARNING OR WATCH FOR ELLIS COUNTY OR A COUNTY SURROUNDING ELLIS COUNTY.
 - 4. AT THE REQUEST OF THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE.
- D. Authorization is given to any Net Control Station to open a R.A.C.E.S. / A.R.E.S. Net in support of any government agency(s) during an emergency, when the appropriate Emergency Management Official requests such assistance.
- E. Alert Procedures: Ellis County R.A.C.E.S. uses a telephone pyramid alert

system to quickly notify spotters. The National Weather Service will notify the County and City officials and they in turn notify the R.A.C.E.S. Radio Officer or his assistants according to the list provided to them by the Radio Officer. The person who receives the alert makes two calls to predetermined members who in turn make two predetermined calls down the chain of command. In addition the organization is using an alert system on the repeater to make members aware of the activation of the spotter group.

2. NET PROCEDURES (SEE ANNEX A. FOR SHORT FORM - NET OPS)

- a. (OPENING)
THIS IS _____(call sign)_____, NET CONTROL STATION, R.A.C.E.S. UNIT (number), FOR THE ELLIS COUNTY RADIO AMATEUR CIVIL EMERGENCY SERVICE ___(type net)___ NET. THIS NET OPERATES ON THIS FREQUENCY BY THE AUTHORITY OF THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION AND CITY OF WAXAHACHIE - ELLIS COUNTY OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT. THIS IS A DIRECTED NET, WHICH MEANS DO NOT TRANSMIT UNLESS DIRECTED TO DO SO BY NET CONTROL. EMERGENCY OR PRIORITY TRAFFIC MAY BREAK IN AT ANY TIME BY USING YOUR CALL SIGN FOLLOWED BY THE WORD "EMERGENCY OR PRIORITY". THIS NET IS A FORMAL NET ALERTED FOR THE PURPOSE OF A ___(type net)___ NET. THOSE NOT DIRECTLY CONNECTED WITH THIS R.A.C.E.S. EXERCISE ARE RESPECTFULLY REQUESTED TO KEEP THIS FREQUENCY CLEAR. THIS IS ___(call sign)_____. NET CONTROL STATION.
- b. Describe the conditions for which the net is called. Units check in with call sign, unit number and Mapsco number or geographic location.
- c. Ask for any traffic concerning the emergency. *Non R.A.C.E.S. stations may check in if they have emergency traffic.*
- d. Appoint an alternate net control when conditions permit.
- e. Liaison:
 1. Establish if necessary a link with:
 - A. The appropriate Emergency Management Official (city, county, state or federal).
 - B. The National Weather Service.

- C. As needed, i.e.: American Red Cross.
- 2. Contact Ellis County Sheriffs Department at 972-937-6060 when formal SKYWARN Nets are in operation. Advise them a SKYWARN (weather spotter) Net is in operation. Give them your name and telephone number and advise them you will give them updates as needed. (See Note 1 and 2).
- 3. Appoint an Information / Logging Station, one who has Internet Capability to monitor Weather Radar available and to log / make reports to various agencies / departments via telephone.
- f. Announce an alternate frequency(s), Simplex, if repeater should go off the air, i.e. 145.410 MHz simplex or 441.650 + 5.0 MHz PL 110.9 (UHF Repeater). See Annex B. for list of other frequency(s) to be used.
- g. Determine what other R.A.C.E.S. Nets are in operation and establish a link with them if conditions warrant. Liaison stations appointed are authorized to check into other R.A.C.E.S. Nets with the following pro words, (call sign), Ellis County R.A.C.E.S. Liaison.
- h. Maintain control over the net. Abbreviated call signs may be used at the discretion of Net Control. ADVISE STATIONS OF NET OPERATION VIOLATION WITH COMPASSION---THE FIRST TIME.
- i. Relay of information: If you receive report(s) of a **FUNNEL ALOFT OR A CONFIRMED SIGHTING OF A TORNADO WITHIN OR MOVING INTO ELLIS COUNTY, IMMEDIATELY CONTACT THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE, ELLIS COUNTY SHERIFFS DEPARTMENT AT 972-937-6060 OR 911, AND WAXAHACHIE POLICE DEPARTMENT AT 972-937-4320 OR 911, SO THAT THEY MAY IN TURN ALERT THE APPROPRIATE CITY - COUNTY OFFICIAL.**
- j. **NET OPERATIONS ARE DIRECTED TO THE EFFECTED AREA. ALL R.A.C.E.S. UNITS NOT IN THE EFFECTED AREA WILL STAND BY.**
- k. Reporting damage, hazardous material or fatality:
 - 1. Reports of any damage to public or private property are to be made in a generic sense.

2. Reports of any damage to public or private property which has hazardous material, the name or four (4) digit UN Identification Code assigned to the product is to be immediately reported to both the Ellis County Sheriffs Department and Waxahachie Police Department. They in turn will notify the appropriate emergency responders. If you are in the area, **STAY UP WIND AND UP HILL FROM THE SITE**. Upon arrival of emergency responders (law enforcement, fire or EMS personnel), give the senior man an update of what, where, when and location of any other people in the effected area, make your self available. If not needed, **CLEAR** from the immediate threat area.
3. Reports of any fatality(s) are to be of a generic sense. **NO NAME(S) OR ADDRESS(S) OF ANY INDIVIDUAL ARE TO BE REPORTED OVER THE AIR. THE APPROPRIATE EMERGENCY RESPONDER WILL DO THIS.**

1. TELEVISION NEWS DEPARTMENTS: Current Weather Radar Information is welcomed. Ellis County Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service Nets are **NOT A NEWS SOURCE FOR ANY TELEVISION STATION**. If they try and check in, have them stand by until there is a break in the reports being made. At that time you may take their query.

3. IF YOU HAVE ANY INFORMATION RELATIVE TO THE NET:
(Conditions in your area meet or exceed minimum reporting criteria)

- a. First be recognized by net control
- b. Make your report only after directed to do so by net control
- c. Report what you see and be **BRIEF**
- d. Give your location where the condition is observed
- e. If time is different than current time, give the time the event occurred
- f. Remember, make your report as factual and short as possible. There are a lot of people listening to us on scanners. **ACCURATE, FACTUAL REPORTS ARE A MUST SO THAT FACTUAL INFORMATION IS RELAYED INTO**

PUBLIC SAFETY AND NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE CHANNELS, AND NOT TO UNNECESSARILY ALARM THE PUBLIC.

- g. Any report you take from a public safety agency for relay into a R.A.C.E.S. or A.R.E.S. Net, ensure you identify where this information is taken from, i.e.: "Golf Ball Size Hail and 50 mph winds were reported by Ovilla Police Unit 802".
- h. Net check in by R.A.C.E.S. Members: If conditions in your area do not meet or exceed minimum reporting criteria, pause before checking into the net, to ensure stations with priority traffic can check in **FIRST**. After they have checked in and listed their priority traffic / conditions, check in and give current conditions in your area, i.e.: rain, wind speed and direction, etc. This gives Net Control a better picture of what conditions are in your area.

4. CLOSING:

- a. After receiving an "**ALL CLEAR**" from The National Weather Service or R.A.C.E.S. Radio Officer, the following statement is used to close the net:

THIS HAS BEEN THE ELLIS COUNTY RADIO AMATEUR CIVIL EMERGENCY SERVICE (type net) . THIS NET OPERATES ON THIS FREQUENCY BY THE AUTHORITY OF THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION AND CITY OF WAXAHACHIE - ELLIS COUNTY OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT. YOUR PARTICIPATION IN THIS NET IS APPRECIATED, THIS FREQUENCY IS NOW RETURNED TO REGULAR AMATEUR SERVICE. THIS IS (call sign) , NET CONTROL.

- b. Any organization you have activated (emergency responder), advise them the emergency condition no longer exists and they may close down operations. Advise the Ellis County Sheriffs Department and Waxahachie Police Department this net has closed down operations, the emergency condition no longer exists.

5. NET CONTROL STATION REPORTS: Net activities log will be closed out and forwarded to the R.A.C.E.S. Radio Officer for file. A locally devised report can be used. This report shall contain the date and times of each report, and by whom. This report may be hand written or typed.

6. **INTERFERENCE:** Any interference will be logged with date, time, call sign used, name if known and type of interference. Net Control Stations will ask the station causing this interference to cease operations. Log the time warning given and continue with net operations. Interference reports will be followed up by the appropriate official.

Note:

1. Select R.A.C.E.S. Members have been assigned "EOC 600 Series" Radio Call Numbers, which are recognized by The City of Waxahachie and Ellis County Texas. Those members may contact other public safety agencies on public safety radio channels **AS THE NEED ARISES.**
2. Most if not all public safety agency dispatch centers know us as the "Weather Spotters." They are not familiar with the acronym of R.A.C.E.S.

ANNEX A. R.A.C.E.S. NET OPERATIONS - SHORT FORM

(OPENING)

THIS IS _____ (call sign) _____, NET CONTROL STATION, R.A.C.E.S. UNIT (number), FOR THE ELLIS COUNTY RADIO AMATEUR CIVIL EMERGENCY SERVICE _____ (type net) _____ NET. THIS NET OPERATES ON THIS FREQUENCY BY THE AUTHORITY OF THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION AND CITY OF WAXAHACHIE - ELLIS COUNTY OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT. THIS IS A DIRECTED NET, WHICH MEANS DO NOT TRANSMIT UNLESS DIRECTED TO DO SO BY NET CONTROL. EMERGENCY OR PRIORITY TRAFFIC MAY BREAK IN AT ANY TIME BY USING YOUR CALL SIGN FOLLOWED BY THE WORD "EMERGENCY OR

PRIORITY". THIS NET IS A FORMAL NET ALERTED FOR THE PURPOSE OF A (type net) NET. THOSE NOT DIRECTLY CONNECTED WITH THIS R.A.C.E.S. EXERCISE ARE RESPECTFULLY REQUESTED TO KEEP THIS FREQUENCY CLEAR. THIS IS (call sign) , NET CONTROL STATION.

(CLOSING)

THIS HAS BEEN THE ELLIS COUNTY RADIO AMATEUR CIVIL EMERGENCY SERVICE (type net) . THIS NET OPERATES ON THIS FREQUENCY BY THE AUTHORITY OF THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION AND CITY OF WAXAHACHIE - ELLIS COUNTY OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT. YOUR PARTICIPATION IN THIS NET IS APPRECIATED, THIS FREQUENCY IS NOW RETURNED TO REGULAR AMATEUR SERVICE. THIS IS (call sign) , NET CONTROL.

ANNEX B. R.A.C.E.S. FREQUENCY LISTING:

HF FREQUENCY(S)

TBA by Texas DEM EOC

VHF FREQUENCY(S)

145.410 MHz R

145.410 MHz S

146.400 MHz S

146.420 MHz S
146.440 MHz S
146.460 MHz S
146.480 MHz S
146.535 MHz S
147.430 MHz S
147.450 MHz S
147.470 MHz S
147.490 MHz S
147.510 MHz S PL 100.0 Encode and Decode * Special Operations

UHF FREQUENCY(S)

441.650 MHz R PL 110.9
441.650 MHz S
445.510 MHz S
445.520 MHz S
445.530 MHz S
445.540 MHz S
445.550 MHz S
445.560 MHz S
445.570 MHz S
445.580 MHz S
445.590 MHz S
446.000 MHz S Nation Wide Simplex

Note: Frequencies listed with a " R " denotes repeater operation.
Frequencies listed with a " S " denotes simplex operation.
If operation on any simplex frequency causes any interference with an
established net in operation, change to another frequency.