

During an emergency the ability to communicate with others is essential. The following guidelines are suggested to facilitate this ability.

## LEVELS OF COMMUNICATION

- **Intra-team** - for communications between volunteers in the field and between the field volunteers and the Church Coordinator, the use of Family Radio Service (FRS) is recommended. These radios do not require a license to operate and are inexpensive to acquire.

- **Inter-team** - it may be desirable to communicate directly with other churches in the area. Since the FRS radios are limited in range the use of the Amateur Radio Operators (HAMS) may be required.

- **Emergency Operation Center (EOC)** - under certain circumstances radio communication with the EOC may be necessary. Under these conditions, the use of Amateur Radio Operators is required.

## PROCEDURES

### - Intra-team

1. Use Family Radio Service (FRS) radios set to Channel 3 with no sub-audible tone. If this frequency is unusable, you can select another channel.
2. Use a business radio on a pre-determined frequency.
3. Use HAM radios on a pre-selected simplex frequency, if there are qualified operators.

### - Inter-team

1. Use a qualified HAM operator to contact other churches directly on a simplex frequency (2 meter:146.52 or County: 446.00). After establishing contact, move to an agreed upon simplex frequency using the minimum power required.
2. Use a qualified HAM operator to contact ARES Net Control to relay messages to other churches.
  - Primary frequency: 147.195+ (PL 100)
  - Secondary frequency: 443.225+ (PL 100) - Tertiary frequency: 146.820
  - Additional frequency: 146.955
  - Additional frequency: 442.125
  - Simplex: 147.470/480/490

### - EOC

1. To communicate with the EOC the following methods should be used:
  - - Telephone contact: (941) 749-3500
  - - E-mail: [ar@mymanatee.org](mailto:ar@mymanatee.org)
  - - Radio: using HAM operators

## DISCUSSION

- Upon learning of an impending disaster (i.e. approaching hurricane) or upon activation of a team for an event underway, a qualified Amateur Operator should be assigned to monitor ARES emergency frequencies for information.
  
- Intra-team messages coming from the field should be relayed to the church Coordinator for action
  
- Communications with other churches may be handled on an informal basis using whatever means available.
  
- Radio communications with the EOC will be handled on an informal basis using a trained operator and formal traffic handling procedures using message forms (ICS-213). The requirement for formal traffic may be waived by Net Control, but initially, only life safety and information requested by the EOC should be sent. Messages should be concise and sent individually.
  
- Contact with the ARES net should be attempted using the following frequencies in the order given above.
  - Messages at all levels should use the following precedence:
    - EMERGENCY - any message with a life and death urgency
    - PRIORITY - important messages needing a specific response time. These may include injuries that need attention, fires, etc.
    - WELFARE - any inquiry about health and welfare or information about health and welfare
    - ROUTINE - normal traffic that doesn't fit into other groups