



# **DRAFT Operations Plan**

**Sammamish ARES/RACES Group (SARGe)**

**Serving the City of Sammamish, WA, and  
other emergency services agencies as  
required**

## Enhancements and Revisions

Comments on and suggestions for enhancements to this Operations Plan should be directed to any of the SARGe Leadership Team Members listed below.

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### Revision History

New July 2005 by Dr Rick Olsen, and approved by SARGe Team

REVISION	DATE	CONTENT

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## **Chapter 1**

### **Introduction**

#### **Nature of Plan**

This Operations Plan includes operating policies and procedures to be used by Amateur Radio volunteer communicators handling communications during an emergency and supporting Eastside Fire and Rescue and other emergency agencies within the City of Sammamish, WA and surrounding area sites.

This Operations Plan is maintained and administered by the SARGe Leadership Team in conjunction with served agency officials in the City of Sammamish.

#### **Definitions**

ARES (Amateur Radio Emergency Services) - An organization of Amateur Radio Operators chartered by the ARRL, whose purpose is to provide emergency communications, principally to hospitals, relief agencies (such as the American Red Cross) and, in some instances, governmental (counties and cities), and other agencies providing life supporting services.

ARES Assistant Emergency Coordinator (AEC)– Member of the SARGe Leadership Team who coordinates activities of the SARGe with the ARES and ARRL Section Manager through the District and Section Emergency Coordinators, and other ARES and Emergency Communication Teams. During events the AEC is the liaison between supported agencies, the Network Manager and the EOC Radio Officer. The AEC is appointed by the ARES District Emergency Coordinator or ARES Emergency Coordinator.

ARRL - American Radio Relay League, the national association for amateur radio.

Command Net - A Command Net is a formal (directed) net, which links Incident Commanders to a unified central command center. In this specific case, Incident Commanders are Site Radio Officers, and the unified command center is the Command Station normally located at the Eastside Fire and Rescue Station #88 that is controlled by the Command Station Radio Officer.

EOC Coordinator – principal contact for SARGe Team to Site Radio Officers, other emergency radio services, and external Emergency Operations Centers. (See Command Net)

Eastside Fire and Rescue - Fire and Emergency Medical Services agency serving King County Washington Fire Districts 10 and 38; and the Cities of Issaquah, Sammamish and Sammamish.

Eastside Fire and Rescue Liaison – Member of the SARGe Leadership Team who coordinates activities, facilities and training with Eastside Fire and Rescue, as well as other official emergency services and governmental agencies.

EOC - Emergency Operations Center for the City of Sammamish, temporarily located in the Eastside Fire and Rescue Station #87. All Emergency Operations are directed from this center.

FCC - Federal Communications Commission, the regulating governmental agency for Amateur Radio Service.

FEMA – Federal Emergency Management Agency – Part of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security that leads the effort to prepare the nation for all hazards and effectively manage federal response and recovery efforts following any national incident. FEMA also initiates proactive mitigation activities, trains first responders, and manages the National Flood Insurance Program and the U.S. Fire Administration.

ICS - Incident Command System, a management structure used by Fire/Security, EMS and other Emergency Responders.

HF (High Frequency) - That portion of the radio frequency spectrum from 3 to 30 Megahertz.

LSB (Lower Side Band) - Radio frequency energy that is used to convey information that is below a theoretical carrier frequency.

MHz - An abbreviation for Megahertz, a unit of measurement of frequency of a radio signal.

Network (Net) - A group of Amateur Radio Stations operating on a common amateur frequency or channel for a specific purpose.

NCS - Net Control Station - An Amateur Radio Station in control of a formal net.

Net Manager – The Net Manager (NM) has overall responsibility for the planning and operation of one or more nets. He defines the net's purpose, sets standards of operation, and communicates that information to net members. This position also handles the assignment of NCS operators, frequencies, and schedules, and may also recruit members for the net.

Information Coordinator – Member of the SARGe Leadership Team that disseminates and coordinates information concerning the Team activities and events to the media and public, and arranges for public relations announcements and news stories for the team.

Resource Coordinator – Member of the SARGe Leadership Team that coordinates and obtains resources for the team including manpower recruitment and new member orientation.

Logistics Officer - Member of the SARGe Leadership Team that maintains records and minutes of Team meetings and events.

SARGe Training & Public Service Coordinator – Member of the SARGe Leadership Team that coordinates Training activities, net training tips, special events, and public service events for the team.

NIMS – National Incident Management System, Developed by the Secretary of Homeland Security at the request of the President, the National Incident Management System (NIMS) integrates effective practices in emergency preparedness and response into a comprehensive national framework for incident management. The NIMS will enable responders at all levels to work together more effectively to manage domestic incidents no matter what the cause, size or complexity.

SARGe TEAM – Sammamish ARES/RACES Groupe (SARGe ), a registered RACES/ARES Team serving the City of Sammamish, WA and surrounding areas, and supporting emergency response organizations including but not limited to Eastside Fire and Rescue, King County Sheriff, National Forest Service, and Search and Rescue.

SARGe Leadership Team – The ARES Assistant Emergency Coordinator, RACES Radio Officer, the Eastside Fire and Rescue Liaison, the SARGe Net Manager, SARGe Resource Coordinator, SARGe Information Coordinator, SARGe Training & Public Service Coordinator, SARGe Resource Coordinator and the SARGe Technical Advisor.

RACES Radio Officer – An amateur radio operator appointed by the Washington State Emergency Management Division to operate and coordinate with Federal and State Emergency Management and Civil Defense authorities in the event of an officially declared regional or national disaster or event.

Resource Net - A Resource Net is an administrative tool used to identify and coordinate assignments and locations of amateur resources. In this specific case, the resources are SARGe Team Amateur Operators in cooperation with other Amateur Operator emergency service organizations including other ARES teams.

SSB (Single Side Band) - A method of voice radio communication where the intelligence is contained in the side bands either above or below the theoretical carrier frequency.

Site Radio Officer - Principal SARGe contact for a specific area or site. See Command Net.

VHF (Very High Frequency) - That portion of the radio frequency spectrum from 30 to 300 Megahertz.

UHF (Ultra High Frequency) - That portion of the radio frequency spectrum from 300 to 3000 Megahertz.

### **Acceptance of Plan**

This Operations Plan becomes the official operating plan for SARGe when accepted by the members of SARGe. The existence and acceptance of this plan in no way supersedes any rule or regulation governing operations in the FCC's Amateur Radio Service.

### **Limitations**

This plan has been prepared using the best information and most reasonable assumptions available when written. There is no guarantee that in major emergencies and disaster situations, a perfect response will be practical or possible. SARGe Team members and others operating under this plan should strive to understand the plan's goals, and keep the plan's goals in mind should deteriorating circumstances require improvisation.

### **Mission Statement and Goals**

#### **Mission**

1. Provide the emergency communications link between Sammamish CERT teams using amateur radio equipment and frequencies for the City of Sammamish, Washington and surrounding areas.
2. Provide disaster communication services for the following:
  - Sammamish EOC and City/County/State EOC(s) and Public Service Answering Points (911 agencies)
  - Eastside Fire and Rescue stations and vehicles
  - King County Sheriff vehicles and base
  - Other site-to-site communications as needed by any other government or first response agency.

- Provide health and welfare information during an emergency
  - Provide reliable, accurate and timely communications for any agency serving Sammamish by having trained and efficient emergency communicators.
3. Provide field support to Eastside Fire and Rescue by operators for the Service Support Volunteer (SSV) Field Support Team (FST) of Eastside Fire and Rescue.
  4. Provide Public Service by providing communications services to public events.

### **Goals**

The goals of the SARGe Team include, but are not limited to:

1. Recruiting and training a pool of amateur radio operators qualified to provide backup emergency communications and support, as well as providing communications services to public events as required.
2. Safely deploying those operators at City/County/State facilities or field positions as necessitated by the event.
3. Recruit and train a pool of amateur radio operators qualified to provide field support for Eastside Fire and Rescue as members of the Service Support Volunteer Field Support Team (FST).
4. Deploy quickly and in sufficient numbers to provide timely and satisfactory service.
5. Utilize operators with due regard for their individual safety and respect for the effort they make and the service they provide.
6. Assist operators in enhancing their experience as emergency services volunteers, as well as assisting operators in enhancing their Amateur Radio experience.
7. Provide support to maintain and enhance any Amateur Radio equipment installed at emergency facilities.
8. Provide reassurance to officials of the City Sammamish, Eastside Fire and Rescue and King County Sheriff officials, as well as the citizens in Sammamish and surrounding areas that back up communications and field support will be available in an emergency.

## **Chapter 2**

### **General Information**

#### **Purpose**

This Operations Plan provides guidance to the City of Sammamish Emergency Managers, members of Eastside Fire and Rescue, King County Sheriff Department, and the SARGe team when the need to activate and utilize one or more SARGe Site Teams for emergency communications may arise.

This Operations Plan also serves to document the purpose and overall goals of the organization for SARGe Team members.

#### **Scope**

The provisions of this Plan are applicable to all facilities that use SARGe Team in emergencies.

In case of conflict, Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Rules and Regulations will take precedence over provisions of this Plan.

#### **Authority**

FCC Rules and Regulations, Part 97, Subpart E - Providing Emergency Communications. Subparts 97.401(a), 97.403 and 97.405, specifically apply.

#### **Background**

The City of Sammamish, Eastside Fire and Rescue, King County Sheriff Department, the Department of Homeland Security including the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) of ARRL recognize that following a widespread disaster, existing communications systems may be either seriously overloaded or inoperative. SARGe Team was formed to provide alternate communications tools for use during a disaster response in support of human life and property.

SARGe Team exists to provide flexible, effective simple communications solutions including trained communicators and radio equipment in response situations including, but not limited to the following:

- Natural disasters
- Technological Disasters (HazMat Incidents)
- Nuclear accident or Attack
- Terrorist Incidents (Including Threats)
- Disenfranchised Individual Attacks/Threats

In addition, it is recognized that in major events or second alarm scenarios, volunteer support is needed for Eastside Fire and Rescue. SARGe Team will encourage volunteers from its membership to serve as Field Support Team for Eastside Fire and Rescue.

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## **Chapter 3**

### **Administrative and Personnel Policies**

#### **General**

This chapter provides information on requirements and procedures for establishing the SARGe Team organization. This chapter also addresses policy issues pertaining to use of citizens serving as volunteer communicators during major incidents or disasters.

#### **Name of Organization**

The name of this organization will be the Sammamish ARES/RACES Groupe(SARGe Team or SARGe). This ARES/RACES team covers the City of Sammamish and surrounding areas, and part of the Washington State RACES Communication Region 6. The team will have interactions with numerous regional and local ARES, RACES and governmental organizations as well as the Eastside Fire and Rescue, King County Sheriff, and other first response emergency organizations.

#### **SARGe Team Eligibility**

Any person who possesses a valid FCC Amateur Radio Operator License, Technician class or higher, and resides in the City of Sammamish or surrounding areas, or has specific skills or abilities that would enhance the ability of SARGe to meet its goals and complete its mission is eligible to become a member of SARGe Team.

The American Radio Relay League (ARRL) provides numerous benefits to amateur radio and in particular to ARES teams including representing ham radio operators in governmental matters, protecting our frequency privileges, sponsoring the ARES organization and National Traffic System, contributing to a strong repeater system by supporting regional frequency coordination, providing and supporting Volunteer Examiners and registered instructors, and representing and supporting clubs and members in interference problems. Although membership in the ARRL is not required, it is highly recommended.

#### **Member Recruiting and Fitness for Service**

Recruiting will be done as deemed appropriate by any team member. Credentialed members will be deemed "fit for service" if they meet the above minimum eligibility requirements, and have successfully undergone a background check supervised by the King County Sheriff Department. Members may be dismissed for cause if their FCC Amateur Radio Operator License is

suspended or revoked, or for other causes as deemed appropriate by SARGe, or officials of the City of Sammamish and its contracting public service agencies.

### **Membership Duties and Responsibilities**

A SARGe Team member agrees to participate in training and drills as provided. When called out, if at all possible, a member also agrees to serve as a radio operator at the Sammamish EOC or other tactical location as needed.

### **Termination of Membership**

Termination of membership in SARGe Team may be by request of the member, for cause, or for consistent and ongoing failure to participate in SARGe Team training and operations. Membership termination will be approved by SARGe Leadership Team.

### **Training**

Training will be scheduled to ensure that this plan works and that SARGe Team members possess the needed skills and knowledge to perform to the plan.

Training will include, but is not necessarily limited to the following:

- Personal safety and family emergency preparedness
- Operations Plan familiarization
- Message handling and documentation
- EOC and Fire Station Equipment Familiarization
- On-air nets and testing of inter-site and intra-site paths
- National Incident Command System
- First Aid, CPR, AED, and Blood Born Pathogens.
- Citizen Emergency Response Team (CERT)
- Public Service Events
- Special events such as EOC to EOC Drills, Field Day, Simulated Emergency Test (SET), etc.
- Other Topics as appropriate

Specific details on training topics and contents will be provided to members during training sessions. Printed copies of materials will be provided as needed for member familiarization and review.

### **The SARGe Team Operations Plan**

The SARGe Leadership Team is responsible for creating and maintaining this SARGe Team Operations Plan. The plan will include the following minimum elements:

The sites served by the SARGe Team  
Situations which justify a SARGe Team callout  
Notification and Callout procedures  
Type of support needed and operational information for responding  
SARGe Team members  
Network types and operating frequencies (channels)  
SARGe Team organizational structure

### **SARGe Team Activation**

One or more SARGe Site Teams may be activated by any member of the SARGe Leadership Team in response to a request from city or served agency officials. Specific procedures for activation are contained in Chapter 5 of this plan.

The City of Sammamish officials and other emergency service workers should feel free to use the services of SARGe whenever the occasion arises.

SARGe team members should be aware of the world around them and self-dispatch ONLY in strict accordance with this plan in times of emergency or disaster if they believe the SARGe Leadership Team members might be unable to contact them.

### **Records**

The SARGe Leadership Team is responsible for maintaining the following records:

Individual Member Records  
Information on SARGe fixed equipment installations  
Other information as deemed necessary by the SARGe  
Leadership Team

## **Chapter 4**

### **Organization and Team Responsibilities**

#### **SARGe Leadership Team**

The SARGe Leadership Team is comprised of the ARES Assistant Emergency Coordinator/SARGe Executive, RACES Radio Officer, the Eastside Fire and Rescue Liaison, the Net Manager, Resource Coordinator, Information Coordinator, Training & Public Service Coordinator, and Logistics Officer. The SARGe Leadership Team is responsible for formulating overall policy and operations plans for SARGe Team, as well as the “Daily Work Management” activities that affect the organization.

#### **Sammamish EOC Team**

When the SARGe Team is activated, the ARES Assistant Emergency Coordinator/RACES Officer, the SARGe Net Manager and the Command Station Radio Officer will report to or establish direct contact with the EOC.

The ARES Assistant Emergency Coordinator/RACES Officer is responsible for managing the event from a SARGe Team standpoint including coordinating with city and emergency workers to determine needs, and to provide radio links to County and/or State Emergency Management Agencies, and other ARES Teams. In addition, in longer events, he will work with the SARGe Resource Coordinator to arrange for logistics and facility arrangements for the SARGe team.

The SARGe Net Manager is responsible for logistics of implementing the radio net, making staffing assignments for the Command Station, receiving resource reports and establishing site needs, and activating the Sites including establishing Site Radio Officers. The EOC should be capable of being staffed continuously, with a minimum of two operators per six-hour shift.

The Command Station Radio Officer is in charge of the Command Station for the SARGe Team, and will establish a SARGe Team Command Net between the Command Station and the required Site Teams. The Command Station at EOC will normally serve as Net Control Station. The Command Station at the EOC should be capable of being staffed continuously, with a minimum of two operators per six-hour shift.

#### **Sammamish CERT Communications Teams**

The CERT Communications Team Leader will, as directed, activate and supervise the operation of their respective communications support teams. The

CERT Communications Teams are headquartered at the EFR fire station that their respective CERT teams are assigned to, and will, if needed, serve as alternate Net Control Station for the Command Net. The Fire Station should be capable of being staffed continuously, with a minimum of two operators per six-hour shift. CERT Communications Team Leader will make operator assignments for his or her specific site.

The Fire Station operators will monitor and, as needed, relay messages transmitted on the Command Net for other CERT stations which are not able to, or are having difficulty in contacting the Command Station at the EOC to handle "Priority" or "Immediate" traffic. Priority and Immediate messages pertain to situations where lives are gravely impacted or endangered and a response is required immediately or within a time frame that ensures that lives are no longer further endangered.

The Fire Station operator will, as required, make contact with local emergency management agencies as requested by the EOC.

The Fire Station operator will, as required, serve as Net Control Station for any local (within-site) nets. These nets will be run on a different frequency than the Command Net.

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## Chapter 5

### Activation/Call-out Plan

#### Justification

The City of Sammamish, Eastside Fire and Rescue, and King County Sheriff Department may activate the SARGe Team at any time they feel their services may be required.

On-scene deployment or dispatch of the SARGe Team will be by direction of the Incident Commander only.

#### SARGe Team Activation

SARGe Site Teams will be activated by contacting one or more SARGe Team Radio Officer(s) via telephone, cell phone, radio, pager or other means of communications as established by the SARGe Leadership Team.

The SARGe Net Manager will provide up-to-date information on SARGe Team members' availability to the ARES Assistant Emergency Coordinator or RACES Radio Officer who will coordinate this information with the EOC managers.

If none of the above methods are successful, any licensed Amateur Radio operator will be contacted by any means known and asked for assistance in contacting SARGe Team members on the **441.550 (103.5) MHz repeater**. If the repeater is not available, operators should monitor 147.56 MHz simplex for instructions from the EOC or Net Manager.

In addition, each CERT team may develop a plan for communications with CERT team members on FRS frequencies as required, provided that their plan is communicated to their respective CERT communications team leader.

City Officials or Incident Commander may contact any SARGe Leadership Team member or designee regarding the need for team activation. Upon notification of the need for the SARGe Team, the Leadership Team member or designee will activate SARGe Team by:

1. Contacting all other SARGe Leadership Team members.
2. Beginning a call-up of the SARGe Teams via telephone, cell, radio or pagers.
3. Reporting to the EOC (Emergency Operations Center) if possible, or maintaining direct contact with the EOC.

4. Appointing a temporary Net Control operator to establish a Radio Net on the appropriate frequencies until the Command Station is established at the EOC as follows:

SITE	Primary Frequency
All SARGe sites	441.550 (103.5) +

5. In the event the repeater network is unavailable, the radio net may be organized on the following simplex frequency:

SITE	FREQUENCY MHz
All SARGe sites	147.56 simplex

6. Determining the number of Radio Operators needed to provide the necessary communications and the type of communications needed.

Whenever a SARGe Team is activated, a radio net will be established on the repeater network. This network is the primary operating network for the SARGe Team and will be used as necessary for tactical communications. Other local networks at each site may be instituted as necessary. In the event that the event is widespread and the repeater is unavailable, SARGe will use the simplex frequency above.

### Self-Activation

A. In the event of an obviously catastrophic incident, SARGe Team members may, and should self-activate. **However, under no circumstances are SARGe Team members to self deploy or dispatch to any event or scene without the direct orders to do so from the Incident Commander or proper governmental authority as coordinated through the SARGe KEY team.**

1. Any SARGe Team member may and should monitor the designated net frequency until such time as the EOC is activated and/or an official Net Control is established.
2. Any SARGe Team member that is able to make contact with a SARGe Team Radio Officer, a SARGe Leadership Team Member, or the Sammamish EOC, should advise of location and availability. Any member not previously assigned to a duty station shall wait for an assignment.

- SARGe Team members may not report to the scene of a disaster without a direct assignment from a member of the SARGe Leadership Team or as directed by the Incident Commander.**

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## Chapter 6

### Team Levels of Activation and Operation

#### Operational Levels and Descriptions

##### Code Green

The SARGe Team **has not** been, or is **no longer** activated.

##### Code Orange

An incident exists that **may require** the activation of the SARGe Team. SARGe Team personnel should monitor the network frequency outlined below if possible for further information. A call up of personnel could occur at any time and members should make their availability known to the Net Control or the Radio Officer on the repeater frequency, or if this is unavailable, the resource frequency on **147.56 MHz** simplex and continue to monitor this frequency for possible assignments.

##### Code Red

The SARGe Team **has been activated** and a call-up of SARGe Team personnel will be conducted. A radio net will be established on the network frequency specified below for EOC to site-specific traffic, and all SARGe members should monitor this frequency or the alternate frequency on **147.56 MHz** for further assignments. During a Code Red condition, the use of the repeater may be limited to communication between the Control Command Station and Site Radio Officers, or SARGe Team personnel and Emergency traffic. **SARGe Team members will NOT report or deploy to any scene or location until directed by a SARGe Leadership Team member under the authority of the Incident Commander.**

If you have any questions concerning the status of a SARGe Site Team or your assignment during activation, contact the EOC.

SITE	Primary Frequency
All SARGe sites	441.550 (103.5) +

In the event the above repeater frequency is unavailable, use simplex frequency of **147.56 MHz**.

## **Determining Operational Level**

*Command Net* - Anytime one or more SARGe Site Teams are activated, a Command Net will be in operation. Information on current Operational Level will be available on the Command Net, and SARGe members may check in to advise of location and availability and to get information about the incident in progress. If the Command Net is extremely busy, a Resource Net will be activated on the simplex frequency of 147.56 MHz.

*Notification Plan* - Individual members may be notified of activation by telephone, cell phone, radio, pager, or any other method of communication available.

## **Responder and Site Equipment Inventory**

When activating the team, it is important to know the equipment capabilities of all members and what is available at each site. The Equipment Inventory (Appendix G) is a list of major radio equipment available to Net Manager and will aid him in dispatching proper resources to sites, as well as assigning relief operators. This inventory should be reviewed and updated at least yearly.

## **Chapter 7**

### **Command Net Operations**

#### **Purpose**

A Command Net will be used to link the Sites with the Command Radio Station and the Sammamish EOC. Other fixed site operations centers as required may also be on the Command Net.

#### **Organization**

The Command Net will be a formal, directed net operating on the repeater network, or 147.56 MHz simplex if required. Specific information will be given during SARGe Team member training and operating drills.

The Command Net will be the primary operating network used by SARGe operators at the Sammamish EOC and Fire Stations. If a great deal of traffic is anticipated for the EOC, then the Net Control function may be handled by a designated Command Radio Station Operator either off-site or at another location.

Coordination with other special net and external customers and suppliers will be handled on separate frequencies (channels). See Appendix A for a list of frequencies used and purposes of each.

SARGe Team expects that most messages transmitted over a Command Net will be formal, that is, using the SARGe Team message format and written. Formal messages are covered in Appendix B of this Operations Plan.

#### **Type of Messages**

Types of messages transmitted on the Command Net will likely include, but are not limited to the following:

- Damage Assessment reports
- System Operations
- Casualty Reports other than those being handled on any Hospital Net
- Power Outage and Restoration Reports
- Traffic and Transportation Impacts
- Logistics Needs
- Health and Welfare information of employees and families

These messages will follow the ARRL precedence convention for formal traffic.

## Chapter 8

### Team External Nets

#### Purpose

Links will likely be established between the SARGe Command Radio Station and selected local emergency management agencies or medical facilities. The links will be used to provide information on local threats and conditions, and communications pertaining to mutual aid response between SARGe and outside agencies.

#### Organization

These links will most likely operate on either 70 cm or 2m repeaters or simplex. Messages will be formal, and nets may be formal. External nets might include the following:

- Local County and City Departments of Emergency Management
- Local Hospitals (via ARES Hospital Nets)
- ARES Nets to other municipal locations
- Non-ARES emergency nets to other locations

Some frequencies are listed in Appendix A for reference.

## Chapter 9

### Radio Operating Procedures

Why do we need radio operating procedures? By developing good operating skills and using standard radio operating procedures we can communicate effectively. This will allow us to provide professional communications in support of government operations when we are requested to assist during an emergency.

#### **CALLING AND COMMUNICATING TECHNIQUES**

In General, there are five parts to calling/communications. The more serious or complex the situation, the more important these procedures become. These procedures should be practiced until they become second nature for the operator.

**FIRST**, to relay your information, you must first establish contact. Give the tactical callsign of the station you are calling. This alerts the station that they are being called and that they should listen to determine who is calling and prepare to copy traffic.

**SECOND**, say "THIS IS" or "FROM". The called station knows a tactical callsign follows. This is especially important when there is a lot of radio traffic or poor signal conditions.

**THIRD**, Give your tactical callsign. During training sessions and actual operations, we will be using tactical callsigns, in addition to your amateur radio callsign, to minimize confusion and aid in traffic handling. The use of tactical callsigns will be covered in detail later in this training session.

**FOURTH**, after the station that you are calling acknowledges you, give your message. Speak slowly and clearly. ***Pause after every two or three words.*** This gives the receiving station time to write down what you are saying. This is extremely important. Try to imagine that you are writing the message as you are reading it. Almost every operator will read a message faster than the receiving operator can write. You have to make a **BIG** effort to speak slowly. Do not use the term "BREAK" when you pause. It is confusing, wastes airtime and has another meaning in formal message handling or emergency traffic. Simply unkey your radio and pause. If the receiving station has a question, they should key up and make their request known. This also permits other stations to break in if they have emergency traffic.

**FIFTH**, end your message with your amateur radio callsign, and "OUT" or "CLEAR".

If your message exceeds 10 minutes, remember to give your amateur radio callsign at the end of every 10 minutes to be legal per FCC rules.

## **EXCEPTIONS OR VARIATIONS**

There are some exceptions or variations to these rules:

1. It is sometimes permissible to omit the call designator of the station you are calling BUT only after communications have been established and no confusion will occur. Don't waste time by using superfluous callsigns. Your amateur callsign need only be used every ten minutes and/or at the end of the conversation.
2. The term "THIS IS" is used to separate the TO and FROM callsigns. If confusion will not result, omitting the "THIS IS" phrase is permissible.
3. Elimination of the words "OVER" and "OUT" is possible where it doesn't introduce problems. Unkeying after your message implies "OVER". In HF Single-side band radio operations, it is often necessary to say the word "OVER" to indicate your transmission is completed, as it is difficult to determine when one has unkeyed.

## **RADIO PROCEDURES**

1. **Identify yourself at the beginning of each contact.** Identify with each transmission only if confusion will result if callsigns are omitted. Station identification is a requirement of the FCC. Stations must give complete station identification at least once every 10 minutes of operation, and at the end of the conversation. The use of tactical callsigns does not excuse us from the FCC requirement to ID with our amateur radio callsigns as required by the FCC and outlined above.
2. **Listen before you transmit.** This is extremely important in order to minimize "doubling" with another station. This is especially true for persons who use tone decoding on their radios. They will not hear a station that is not transmitting the proper PL tone. PL tone decoding is not recommended during emergency operations unless it is absolutely necessary to reduce interference.
3. **Know what you are going to say** before you push the microphone key. Gather your thoughts and organize your message.
4. **Hold the transmit button down for at least one second before you begin talking.** This allows the receiving station's squelch to open up and insures that the first part of your message is not "cut off". This is especially true when

communicating via a repeater or when operating with radios which are utilizing PL decoding.

5. **Talk across the face of your microphone** by holding the microphone at a right angle to your face. This technique makes the communications more understandable.
6. **Speak slowly, distinctly, clearly, and do not let your voice trail off at the end of the words or sentences.** Give each and every word equal force. In poor signal conditions, words must be overly exaggerated to be understandable. In general, speak slowly and distinctly to carry through static and weak signals.
7. **Never acknowledge calls or instructions unless you understand the call or instruction perfectly.** If you do not understand, ask for a repeat. It is important to get the message correctly. Under stress, many operators have a tendency to talk too fast. **ACCURACY FIRST, SPEED SECOND.** A good rule of thumb is to talk at a rate would be comfortable for an average person to write your words down.
8. **When you have received the message, acknowledge it by saying “copy” or “received”.** Never use the word “QSL”. When receiving instructions, acknowledge by saying “copy” and repeat the instructions or message back to the sending station.

Example:

**BASE** “ROVER this is BASE”

**ROVER** answers “Base this is Rover go ahead”

**BASE** “Rover please report to staging and await further assignment.  
OVER.”

**ROVER** “Base this is Rover: Copy, report to staging and await further assignment. Rover out, N7ABC.”

**BASE** “That’s affirmative Rover BASE clear W7XYZ”

9. The word “**BREAK**” is only used in two circumstances in amateur radio. In order to get access to a repeater frequency or net for emergency or priority traffic, you should state the word “BREAK” followed by your complete call sign in the pauses between conversations. The operators using the frequency will then recognize you and turn the frequency over to you. The other time that “break” is used is when separating the address from the text, and the text from the signature in a formal message format.
10. **Always acknowledge calls and instructions.** Nothing is more disruptive to the smooth flow of communications than dead silence in response to a message. If you can not copy or respond to a message, then tell the sending

station to “say again” or “stand by”. Otherwise, acknowledge all calls immediately. Please understand that, during an emergency, Net Control Stations frequently are very busy with work that is not on the air. If you call the NCS and do not get a reply, be patient and call again in a minute or two. If you have an emergency, say you have “emergency traffic” after you identify yourself when you call the NCS. Be patient with the NCS and other stations on the Net.

11. Do not act as a relay station unless the Net Control, or another radio station, asks for a relay and you can fulfill the requirement with your station.
12. **If you are relaying** a message for someone else, **be sure you repeat the message exactly, word for word**, as it is given to you. If it makes no sense to you, get an explanation before you put it on the air. If necessary, refer the message back to the originator for clarification.
13. **There is no place for “Q-signals”** during official and emergency communications, except for initialization of the Resource Net as above. They are too easily misunderstood, rarely save time, and often result in errors.
14. **When transmitting numbers, (house numbers, telephone numbers, street numbers, etc.) transmit number sequences as a series of individual numbers.** Never say numbers in combinations. Example: “Three-Seven-Zero-Four” rather than “Thirty-seven zero four”.
15. **If a proper name needs to be transmitted, always spell it out using the ICAO or military phonetic alphabet** (See Appendix B). Do not use cute or self-invented phonetics. There is no place for them in official and emergency communications. Avoid using the phrase “common spelling” to reduce confusion. What may be common to you may not be common with someone else.
16. **Avoid angry or sarcastic comments on the air at all times.** Obscene statements are not necessary and are out of place in all communications.
17. **During an incident, communications suffer enough confusion without wisecracks and jokes.** Amateur Radio may be considered by some as only a hobby to enjoy, but when providing emergency communications you must remember that it is serious business and should be treated as such at all times.
18. **Sound alert.** Nothing destroys confidence as much as a bored or weary sounding radio operator. If you are tired, get a relief operator.
19. **Stay off the air unless you are sure that you can be of assistance.** It does no good to offer advice, assistance, comments or other input to a net

unless you can truly provide clarification. An emergency net should not be interrupted for routine questions or unsolicited comments. Stations who are not involved with the emergency operations should never disrupt the net unless they have emergency traffic.

20. **Always know your location.** Mobile units should know the street name or number that they are traveling on and the nearest intersection. Fixed station operators should know the name, phone number, and location of the building that they have been assigned to.
21. **When operating on VHF and UHF frequencies with a handheld radio, look for a receiving “hot spot” site and use it.** Remember that the repeater probably has more power output than your HT and you will most likely receive it better than it will receive your signal. If you are not reaching the repeater or station that you are calling change your location before trying again. Many times moving as little as one or two feet can make the difference between making contact or not. Don't walk around talking while in a communications fringe area. Find a good spot and stick to it whenever possible.
22. **ONLY TRANSMIT FACTS.** If you are asked to provide information about an operation or emergency situation, you are only permitted to relay information that has been cleared by an authorized official. Be careful what you say on the air. When you transmit opinions or hearsay information, it may be mistaken for official information. There are many people listening and facts can be taken out of context even when carefully identified.
23. **If you check into an emergency net, you must monitor the net frequency.** If you must leave the frequency, ask permission of the NCS. Report to the NCS when you return to the net.
24. **Emergency traffic has priority** over all other communications. Mobile units have priority over fixed stations.

These operation procedures are intended to help you become a better operator, whether public safety or amateur radios. Analyze your present operating methods and try to incorporate these procedures into your communication activities. You will be seen as a professional operator and your operating practices will be an example to others. These procedures may need to be altered slightly during an emergency to meet the local communications requirement. Always listen to the Net Control Station. The NCS may adjust the net procedures to provide the best possible communications.

## **TACTICAL CALLSIGNS**

Tactical callsigns are often used to identify a station instead of the regular amateur callsign. **This does not excuse the operator of the responsibility of identifying with their amateur callsign as required by the FCC Rules and Regulations.**

When an operating location is set up, several operators during the duration of the emergency will probably use it. This would be too many callsigns to try to remember. This is where tactical callsigns prove to be an asset. The operator may change but the tactical callsign remains the same for the entire operation or for as long as the operating position is needed. The tactical callsign is usually assigned according to location (EOC) or the duties (Net Control). Sometimes unit numbers are used.

Tactical callsigns are assigned by the agency you are assigned to work with, by the radio officer, or the Net Control. Operators do not make them up or assign them. As a rule, the tactical callsign will not be changed during the operation unless such a change would help improve the operation.

Tactical callsigns will be used during all exercises. This will familiarize all operators with their use.

**The amateur callsign of the operator currently on the air must be announced at the completion of every contact (a series of exchanged transmissions between two or more stations) and at least once every 10 minutes during prolonged contacts as per FCC regulations.**

Example:

**City Hall:** Net Control, This is City Hall, OVER.

**NCS:** This is Net Control, go ahead (or OVER)

**City Hall:** I have traffic for Station 83, OVER

**NCS:** Call your Station, this is Net Control, N9VW, OUT

**City Hall:** Received, BREAK; Station 83 this is City Hall OVER.

**Station 83:** This is Station 83 go ahead.

**City Hall:** The requested forms will be on their way to you in half an hour  
OVER

**Station 87:** Received. I will expect the forms to be here in a half hour.  
This is Station 83, W7CDO, OUT

**City Hall:** That's affirmative Station 83, this is City Hall, KD7ULH, OUT (or CLEAR)

The most important thing to remember about tactical callsigns is that they help keep the traffic flow both fast and accurate.

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## Chapter 10

### SARGe Team JUMP KIT

It is important that we, as SARGe Team members, report for duty during an emergency with the equipment and supplies necessary to perform our duties as communications personnel. You should prepare yourself to operate under emergency conditions for at least 12 hours. In addition to a personal 72 Hour Emergency Kit, we recommend that you assemble a "SARGe Team Jump Kit". This is simply a container, such as a duffel bag or daypack, with the items that you will need to have when you report for duty. The following list is intended to serve as a guideline for a basic jump kit.

#### RADIO EQUIPMENT

2 Meter handheld Transceiver  
(144/440 MHz dual band preferred)  
Two nicad Battery packs  
Alkaline Battery case (AA batteries)  
Speaker Microphone  
Telescopic antenna (Hotrod etc.) or flexible ¼ wave.

Cigarette lighter adapter  
BNC to UHF adapter  
Short length of RG-58 cable  
(with BNC connector on one end and what ever mates with your Radio on the other)

#### **Optional – Include a magnetic mount antenna for use with your handheld.**

*This can be useful if you have to go mobile in a vehicle other than your own.  
The antenna can be used indoors if a suitable ground plain can be found.*

#### Supplies

Pen and Pencil  
Notebook or writing tablet  
Clipboard

Flashlight (with spare bulb)  
Spare batteries (for flashlight/radio)

#### Clothing

A complete change of clothes  
(suitable for the climate)  
Gloves  
Tennis shoes  
Rain gear  
Warm jacket or parka  
Sunglasses

Hat or stocking cap  
Pair of boots  
**Optional Safety vest**  
*And hard hat*  
\* Don't forget any medication you need.

*The items listed above should be taken whenever you are activated during an emergency or disaster.*

## Appendix A

### SARGe Team Frequency Assignments (And other agencies of interest)

Frequency MHz	Mode/offset/tone	Purpose	Comments
441.55	FM/plus 5MHz/103.5 Hz	EOC Control Command and Site Stations	W7WWI Command Repeater Network located on Cougar Mtn
147.56	FM Simplex	Alternate Control Command and Site Command Net(s)	Secondary or Resource nets as needed
442.025	FM/plus 5 MHz/103.5	Linked PSE Repeater to Rattlesnake	To be used when south or west of W7PSE Command Repeater Network and out of range of Rattlesnake.
145.110	FM /minus 0.6 MHz/ 103.5	King County RCECC	Also primary for King County Search and Rescue teams
145.310	FM -/ 123.0	Redmond EOC	Repeater
146.56	FM simplex	Issaquah EOC	Also North Bend Secondary
53.87	FM / minus 1.7 MHz / 100 Hz	State EOC Camp Murray	Repeater, Green Mtn
53.31	FM / minus 1.7 MHz / 100 Hz	State EOC Camp Murray	Alternate, Cougar Mtn
3985 KHz	LSB	State EOC Camp Murray	Washington State Emergency Net
145.01	FM/1200b AX.25 packet	State EOC Camp Murray (W7EMD-4)	Western Washington Packet Network via SEA node
144.39	FM/1200b AX.25 packet	State EOC Camp Murray (W7EMD-4)	APRS Network (alternate for short message text)
442.725	FM/+103.5 Hz	N6OBY-R (EchoLink node 23888)	Social and non-emergency traffic (no backup power available)
146.820	FM / -/103.5	King County ARES	KC ARES Net (Sundays at 2200 hrs)

## Appendix B

### ITU PHONETIC ALPHABET USED FOR EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS

THE FOLLOWING PHONETIC ALPHABET IS USED WORLDWIDE, AND IN THE INTEREST OF UNIFORMITY, THE SAME PHONETIC ALPHABET IS USED FOR EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS.

A – ALPHA

B – BRAVO

C – CHARLIE

D – DELTA

E – ECHO

F – FOXTROT

G – GOLF

H – HOTEL

I – INDIA

J – JULIET

K – KILO

L – LIMA

M – MIKE

N – NOVEMBER

O – OSCAR

P – PAPA

Q – QUEBEC

R – ROMEO

S – SIERRA

T – TANGO

U – UNIFORM

V – VICTOR

W – WHISKEY

X – X-RAY

Y – YANKEE

Z – ZULU

0 – ZEE-ROW

1 – WUN

2 – TOO

3 – THU-REE

4 – FO-WER

5 – FI-YUV

6 – SIX

7 – SEV-VEN

8 – ATE

9 – NI-NER

## Appendix C

The following page is a copy of the SARGe Team Message form. This form is to be used for all “official” message traffic.

The purpose of the form is to insure accuracy in the transmission and reception of official message traffic. All applicable portions of the form should be completed.

Sections of the form.

- Standard ARL texts for welfare or emergency traffic are listed for your information. These should be familiar to every radio operator so they can be used when applicable to shorten the text.
- Precedences or Priorities are listed for your information
  - Routine – This is non-emergency traffic, or informational message of very low importance.
  - Welfare – Queries or responses concerning the health or welfare of individuals or groups
  - Priority – More important than Routine, but still non-emergency traffic. This could be traffic that is of “time” importance. Even though it’s not emergency traffic, it is “time” critical and needs to be delivered as soon as possible.
  - EMERGENCY – This is the highest priority of our message traffic. It should be reserved for critical or “life and death” issues.
- Handling Instructions (optional) are listed for your information. In an emergency, it is unlikely that these will be used.
- Number,
  - This is a consecutive number issued to a message. This number will also appear in the message log. Each site will maintain a message log. This number along with the Date and Time make up the Date/Time group of the message. This date/time group is used to track, make reference to, and to reply to messages. The date/time group provides positive identification of a message.
- Precedence is to be filled in on each message. For Routine, Welfare and Priority messages, the first letter (R, W, or P) is all that is required. Emergency message Precedence is always SPELLED OUT as “EMERGENCY”.
- Station of Origin is the FCC call sign of the radio operator sending the original message. This may not be your call sign if you are relaying the message.
- Check is the number of words in the text portion of the message. If you are using Standard ARL texts, the abbreviation “ARL” will precede the number of words in the Check box.
- Place of Origin is where the message originated. This is not necessarily the place where the Station of Origin is located, but the actual place the person who wrote the message was at.

- Time is in the local 24-hour format that the message was written with the local time zone indicated, without using a semicolon (for example, 2000 PSDT).
- Date is in the format mm/dd/yyyy.
- To is the name, and address of who the message is intended for
- Telephone number is the phone number of who the message is intended for. Station Handling this Message box is where you place your call sign, name and location, If you are the first operator handling the message, your call sign will also be in the Station of Origin.
- Message Text
  - Legibly print, do not write, using one word per blank line. If you are using the ARL standard texts, Precede each phrase with "ARL" and spell each number as an individual word. ( i.e. ARL TWENTY TWO)
  - If your message is longer than the form allows, the last three words of the text should be "MORE TO FOLLOW" and another message form filled out properly with the text beginning with the first four words "CONTINUATION MESSAGE NUMBER\_\_\_\_\_".
- REC'D is where you place the call sign (if by radio) or name (if in person) of the person giving the message to you, date and time you received the message.
- SENT is where you place the callsign of the person you are sending the message to (not necessarily who the message is intended for), date and time you sent the message.

## SARGe TEAM ARRL MESSAGING FORM

(CIRCLE STANDARD ARL TEXTS FROM LIST BELOW FOR WELFARE MESSAGE)

ONE	Everyone safe here. Please don't worry.		FOURTEEN	Situation here becoming critical. Losses and damage from ___ increasing.
TWO	Coming home as soon as possible.		FIFTEEN	Please advise your condition and what help is needed.
THREE	Am in ___ hospital. Receiving excellent care and recovering fine.		SIXTEEN	Property damage very severe in this area.
FOUR	Only slight property damage here. Do not be concerned about disaster reports.		SEVENTEEN	REACT communications services also available. Establish REACT communications with _ on channel ___
FIVE	Am moving to new location. Send no further mail or communication. Will inform you of new address when relocated.		EIGHTEEN	Please contact me as soon as possible at ___.
SIX	Will contact you as soon as possible.		NINETEEN	Request health and welfare report on __ (State name, address & telephone number)
SEVEN	Please reply by Amateur Radio through the amateur delivering this message. This is a free public service.		TWENTY	Temporarily stranded. Will need some assistance. Please contact me at ___
EIGHT	Need additional ___ mobile or portable equipment for immediate emergency use.		TWENTY ONE	Search and Rescue assistance is needed by local authorities here. Advise availability.
NINE	Additional ___ radio operators needed to assist with emergency at this location.		TWENTY TWO	Need accurate information on the extent and type of conditions now existing at your location. Please furnish this information and reply without delay.
TEN	Please contact ____. Advise to standby and provide further emergency information, instructions or assistance.		TWENTY THREE	Report at once the accessibility and best way to reach your location.
ELEVEN	Establish Amateur Radio emergency communications with ___ on ___ MHz.		TWENTY FOUR	Evacuation of residents from this area urgently needed. Advise plans for help.
TWELVE	Anxious to hear from you. No word in some time. Please contact me as soon as possible.		TWENTY FIVE	Furnish as soon as possible the weather conditions at your location.
THIRTEEN	Medical emergency situation exists here.		TWENTY SIX	Help and care for evacuation of sick and injured from this location needed at once.

**PRECEDENCES    Routine R    Welfare W    Priority P    EMERGENCY**

Handling Instructions:

- HXA** -- (Followed by number.) "Collect" telephone delivery authorized by addressee within (X) miles. If no number is sent, authorization is unlimited.
- HXB** -- (Followed by number.) Cancel message if not delivered within (X) hours of filing time; service (notify) originating station.
- HXC** -- Report date and "time of delivery" (TOD) to originating station.
- HXD** -- Report to originating station the identity of the station who delivered the message, plus date, time and method of delivery. Also, each station to report identity of station to which relayed, plus date and time.
- HXE** -- Delivering station to get and send reply from addressee.
- HXF** -- (Followed by date in numbers.) Hold delivery until (specify date).
- HXG** -- Delivery by mail or telephone - toll call not required. If toll or other expense involved, cancel message, and send service message to originating station.

Number	Precedence	HX	Station of Origin	Check	Place of Origin	Time Filed	Date
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**To**

Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_

**Station handling this message**

Call Sign \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Location \_\_\_\_\_

	From	Date		To	Date	Time
Time	REC'D			SENT		

**Appendix D**

**SARGe TEAM Message Log**

The Message log is used to log incoming and outgoing messages so that they can be tracked.

Blanks are provided on the form to fill in the message number, the 24 hour time (that the message was sent or received), the Subject, who the message was from and who it's to.

All official messages should be logged.

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## Appendix E

### **SARGe TEAM Station Log**

The EOC Station log is used to document all important events occurring at the station such as:

- Operator reporting on and going off shift
- NET check in and check out of times
- Critical events such as fires, earthquakes, relocations, etc.
- Equipment or personnel problems or issues
- Any comments that would improve the re-construction of sequence of events in an emergency concerning your radio station location.

Spaces are provided for the time, event, your name and call sign. All spaces should be filled out.

It is more important to put too much into the log rather than not enough. Your comments can be filtered after the event, but if an important piece of data is missing, it is highly unlikely it will be discovered.

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## **Appendix G**

# **City of Sammamish CERT Communications Plan**

### **Purpose**

The purpose of this document is to describe the plan for CERT communications in the event of a disaster or other emergency that requires the activation of CERT teams.

### **Summary**

In a disaster or other emergency, communications between neighborhoods and the Emergency Operations Center are required for several purposes, including casualty reports, damage assessment reports, logistics requests and “health and welfare” traffic. In addition, reliable communications between and among CERT teams will enhance their ability to complete their missions.

In a disaster or other emergency, normal means of communications, including landline and cellular phones, will not be disrupted or unavailable. Therefore, it is important to have alternate communications capability in place and available.

This document details the procedures by which CERT teams can communicate with each other and the EOC in the event of an emergency.

### **CERT Organization**

CERT teams in Sammamish are currently organized by neighborhood, following the boundaries of existing developments where possible. Within any given neighborhood, there may be no CERT teams, or one or more CERT team.

Groups of CERT teams (neighborhoods) are assigned “Home” Fire Stations, based on the Eastside Fire and Rescue “First-In” response plan.

### **Communications Roles**

Effective communications requires that certain roles be assigned to one or more CERT Team members. The most important of these roles is that of ‘communicator’. In addition, each CERT team member in possession of a radio (either FRS/GMRS or Amateur) may also be called upon to communicate using his/her radio.

#### **Communicator Role**

The role of the communicator on a CERT team is to be that team’s focal point for communications. If a radio amateur is available, he or she is the logical choice to assume this role.

#### **Team Member Role**

All CERT team members other than the communicator should be prepared to assume at least some role in communications.

### **Communications Modes**

During CERT activation, CERT teams will use the following modes of communication:

1. FRS Radios
2. GMRS Radios
3. Amateur Radios

Note that both the GMR and Amateur Radio Services are “licensed” services, that is, an FCC license is required. At the present time, it is the responsibility of the individual operators to obtain the required licenses.

## FRS Radios

FRS radios are the primary tool used by CERT teams to communicate among themselves (intra-team communications), and to communicate with nearby CERT teams (inter-team communications). Each CERT team will be assigned a unique frequency/tone to be used for intra-team communications. The frequencies/tones to be used are defined in Appendix A.

## GMRS Radios

GMRS radios are much like FRS radios; however, due to their higher power output, their use by CERT teams should be limited to cases in which FRS radios are not effective. GMRS radios will be used by Fire Station Teams in order to communicate over longer distances in cases where Amateur Radio is not available. Each Fire Station will be assigned a frequency/tone that will be used as its CERT communications channel.<sup>1</sup>

## Amateur Radios

Amateur radios, operated by licensed amateurs, will be used to communicate between neighborhoods, Fire Stations and the EOC. The frequencies to be used are listed in Appendix B.

## Activation Plan

In the event of an emergency, CERT communications will be activated as outlined in this section.

## Team Communications

As a CERT team is formed, a team leader will be selected. The team leader should then select an individual to fill the role of communicator. In some cases, team leader may decide to take on this role. If an Amateur Radio operator is present, he or she should be considered for this role.

The team communicator should assess the number of radios available and the capabilities of each radio. If more than 1 FRS/GMRS radio is available, they should be distributed among the team members. Each radio should be set to the appropriate neighborhood/area frequency/tone (see Appendix A) and tested.

The communicator should attempt to establish communications with their “Home” Fire Station and/or the EOC, using FRS/GMRS or Amateur radio, on the appropriate channel/frequency (which will be different from the neighborhood frequency). The initial communication should be in the form a quick “check-in” and should identify the neighborhood, the team lead, the number of members and the status of the team. For example:

“Station 82 - This is the Demery Hill CERT team checking in with 5 people, our team lead is Victoria Findley, we are commencing a check of our neighborhood”.

Amateur Radio operators should follow the SARGE Communications plan, and comply with all applicable FCC rules and regulations.

Be aware that the Fire Stations and EOC will be extremely busy and may not immediately respond. If your transmission is not acknowledged, wait 15 minutes and attempt again – try every 15 minutes until you establish communications. In the meantime, use FRS to communicate between team members as required.

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<sup>1</sup> The Fire Station Channels will typically be selected from the shared GMRS/FRS frequencies, in order to enable longer range communications from the Fire Station.