

# Box Elder County ARES

## “Emergency Communication Protocol”

Depending on the Nature of the Emergency or Disaster “Electrical Power and Telephones” may be out due to Power Lines and Poles being down. Cell service may or may not be working so do not depend on it. If “Land Lines” are down it may be difficult to call anyone using any Phone. Any open Phone circuits will quickly become overloaded and stop working. **Turn your Amateur Radio on and Monitor the Local Frequencies.** If you have Power, check the TV, Local Radio Stations and Weather Radio for News, Conditions and/or Warnings. Take stock of your situation and surroundings.

**FIRST!** – *Take Care of your family and their immediate needs*

### **Things to Remember:**

#### **1 – SAFETY FIRST!**

Don’t take any chances or do anything you don’t feel comfortable doing even if asked.

#### **2 – Use “PLAIN ENGLISH”!**

Don’t use “Q” Signals or the “10” Code when talking on the radio. Most people do not know them.

#### **3 – Keep your Messages and Comments SHORT.**

Think about what you need or want to say before transmitting and **don’t state sensitive subjects.** Do not tie up the frequencies.

When making comments about people who need assistance use the **“Standard CERT Colors”**:

**Red** – Critical, Life Threatening

**Yellow** – Minor Injuries, Not Walking

**Green** – Good Condition

#### **4 – Always contact the Net Control Station (NCS) and inform them of any change to your status.**

If you are told to leave or stop transmitting by the Served Agency contact the NCS ASAP.

If you are closing your station or changing station operators contact the NCS.

#### **5 – “SPEAK SLOWLY and CLEARLY”**

If requested, use the Phonetic Alphabet when giving your “Call Sign”.

Write down your “Call Sign” Phonetically if you can’t remember the Standard Phonetics.

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#### **6 – Listen – Listen – Listen!**

Listening is the best thing to do. Don’t tie up the Frequencies. Wait for the NCS to make a request.

#### **7 – Public Media and Reporters (TV, Radio, Newspaper, etc.)**

Emergencies or Disasters bring out the best and worst in the Media. Refer all questions to the Served Agency Public Information Officer (PIO). **DO NOT** give your opinion or volunteer information.

#### **8 – You are on our own**

Your “Personal Emergency Kit” may be all you have to sustain you for up to a week before help of any kind may get to our area. Keep your “Personal and Family Emergency Kits” up to date.

#### **9 – Grab-n-Go Radio Kit**

Having your Communications Equipment and Tooling in one place is important.

You may not have time to run all around your house and gather up bits and pieces.

## **What to do:**

1 – Listen to the **Local Repeaters** for Information or Traffic:

Primary Repeater Frequency:     **145.430– (PL .123)** [GSARC Repeater, Blue Springs Hills]  
  **448.300– (PL .123)** [GSARC Repeater, Blue Springs Hills]  
Secondary Repeater Frequency:   **145.290– (PL.123)** [GSARC Brigham City Repeater]  
Additional Repeater Frequency:   **147.220+ (PL .123)** [GSARC Fielding/Riverside Repeater]

(All Repeater locations are linked together if working properly)

Be aware of each Repeater Offset and PL Tone Requirement

State ARES Info Net for Box Elder: **145.490– (PL .123)** [West Ogden, Promontory Point]

2 – If you hear nothing from the Repeaters, Transmit your “Call Sign” as a Test to see if they are working (i.e. “This is KC7JOK Testing”)

3 – If the Local Repeaters are not functioning tune to the **Local SIMPLEX Frequency**:

Primary Simplex Frequency:       **146.480**           (no + or – offset or PL Tone)  
Secondary Simplex Frequency:   **147.600**           (no + or – offset or PL Tone)

**Note:** Be aware that most Newer Radios have an “Automatic Repeater Offset”. 147.600 has a normal Negative offset so you will have to turn the Auto-Offset Function Off. It’s best to have these Frequencies Saved in a Memory Location in your Radio.

If you hear no one Transmitting on the Radio and it appears that You are the First One Responding, Start an **“EMERGENCY INFORMATION NET”**. You won’t have to stay the “NCS”, but at least start the NET so that others will be aware of the nature of the Emergency and the Need for Communications Support.

**Have a pencil or pen and notebook handy to *copy down Call Signs and any Traffic*. If possible use the *“Box Elder County ARES Emergency Communications Contact Status” sheets*. The information gathered will be relayed to the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) Net Control when the Station is set up and manned.**

When responding to the NCS Call for Check-Ins, listen and try to only call in 4 or 5 at a time then stop and wait. Count those that have called ahead of you. The NCS will acknowledge those who have responded and then continue. It is difficult to write down several Call Signs without a break.

Wait for the Squelch Tail or Courtesy Tone to drop before responding on the Repeater. Don’t Key your Mic to quickly because you might cover EMERGENCY or PRIORITY TRAFFIC.

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Script:

## **EMERGENCY Information NET**

This is "**Your Call Sign**" my name is "**Give Your Name**" I am located in "**Give Your Current Location**". I am acting as the **NET Control Station** (*for the time being*) and am starting an "**EMERGENCY Information NET**".

### **"THIS IS NOT A DRILL"**

Amateur Operators not wanting to participate in this "**Emergency Information Net**" are at this time asked to please refrain from using this Repeater or Frequency until cleared for normal use.

This is a Directed Net, Stations should not transmit until asked to do so by NET Control. All available Amateur Operators are requested to check in to this Information NET.

*(Repeat this every 15 minutes until full EOC staffing is obtained)*

Operators and or Stations in the Brigham City area please check in now . . .

Operators and or Stations in the Tremonton-Garland area please check in now . . .

Operators and or Stations in the Perry-Willard area please check in now . . .

All other Operators and or Stations please check in now . . .

Assistance and Assignments will be made as soon as the information has been obtained from the **EOC**.

Conserve your Power and Monitor this Frequency for Directions and Further Information.

### **"PLEASE STAND BY"**

*After a Roll Call has been established Request and Record the following information from each Check-in:*

- 1 – Current Status (Personal & Family Health and Welfare, including Home, Dwelling/Shelter status)
- 2 – Current Utilities Status (Electrical Power – Water – Natural Gas – Phone Service)
- 3 – Current Radio Power Status (Normal Power – Emergency Power – Battery Back-up)
- 4 – Current Transportation Status (Car – Truck – Bike – ATV – Motorcycle – A Foot)

**As important conditions and things change at each location, please call and notify the NCS.**

**If there are additional events, such as earthquake after shocks,  
"Call the Roll" as soon as possible for an updated status.**

### **SIMPLEX Contact – General Practice:**

When attempting to make a Contact or Reporting in to the NCS using a SIMPLEX Frequency,

**FIRST** – Listen to see if anyone is using the Frequency.

**SECOND** – Key your Mic and say "**This Is**", un-key your Mic and Listen to make sure no one is Transmitting at the same time, Key your Mic again and continue "**This Is, Give Your Call Sign**".

This is the MARS (Military Affiliate Radio System) protocol for using a Simplex Frequencies.

Use the "**24 Hour Clock**", Military Time, to document and record "TIME".

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## Other Important Frequencies & Connections:

### Packet:

145.010 State Wide  
145.050 Salt Lake County  
145.070 Box Elder (Primary)  
144.970 Box Elder (Secondary)

### LDS ERC:

147.480 Box Elder County/Cache  
145.590 Ogden  
146.960– Layton (*Negative Offset*)

### State RACES Frequencies:

147.340 (100.0 Tone)  
449.425 (100.0 Tone)

### APRS:

144.390 National Frequency (Primary)  
144.340 (Secondary)

### 2-Meter Frequencies:

146.520 National Simplex Calling Frequency (Primary)

### 440 Frequencies:

446.000 National Simplex Calling Frequency (Primary)  
446.500 (Secondary)

### IRLP:

**Note:** If the power is out and phone lines are down in a large area, access to an IRLP Node may not be possible.

145.490– (123.0 Tone) Ogden, West (*Negative Offset*)  
448.550 (100.0 Tone) Western Reflector – SLC Link (Primary)  
448.400 (88.5 Tone) (Secondary)

### Echo Link:

**Note:** If the power is out and phone lines are down in a large area, access to ECHO Link may not be possible.

Requires the use of a computer with the Echo Link program and an Internet connection.

## Box Elder County ARES/RACES Leadership Contacts:

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Box Elder County ARES/RACES Leadership Contact Info added

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