



## Benton County, MO ARES

32018 Hwy 7

Edwards, MO 65326

(573) 569-3673

Visit us at [bentoncountyares.org](http://bentoncountyares.org)

### **Amateur Radio Emergency Service Incident Action Plan for Benton County, MO**

#### **1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1. The Benton County, MO Amateur Radio Emergency Service (BC ARES) is composed of FCC-licensed Amateur Radio operators who have voluntarily registered their capabilities and equipment for public service communications duty.
- 1.2. Under Federal regulations, Amateur Radio public service communications are furnished without compensation of any kind.
- 1.3. The BC ARES functions under this Emergency Plan under the direction of the Benton County, MO Emergency Coordinator (EC), who is appointed by the ARRL Section Emergency Coordinator in consultation with the District Emergency Coordinator.
- 1.4. The EC may appoint assistant ECs as needed for the ARES to function efficiently.

#### **2. PURPOSE**

- 2.1. The purpose of this plan is to provide a written guide containing the minimum information that would be needed in an emergency. Each emergency is different and flexibility to provide an adequate response to each is a necessity.
- 2.2. The primary responsibility of the BC ARES is to furnish communications in the event of a natural disaster, when regular communications fail or are inadequate.
- 2.3. All drills, training and instruction shall be carried out to insure readiness to respond quickly in providing effective amateur emergency communications whenever an occasion may arise.
- 2.4. The following agencies could be served during a communications emergency: American Red Cross; local medical facilities; Civil Preparedness; City Hall; Fire Department; Police Department; Sheriff's Department; Salvation Army; and any other agencies requesting assistance from the ARES.

### **3. ACTIVATING THE PLAN**

- 3.1. Any member of the BC ARES who for any reason suspects a communications emergency exists should monitor the assigned net for activity.
- 3.2. If local telephone service is available, the EC and/or assistant ECs should be notified by telephone.
- 3.3. In an emergency in which Amateur Radio might serve the community, Amateur Radio operators may be alerted by any city, Red Cross, Civil Preparedness, or similar official notifying the Emergency Coordinator.
- 3.4. Local broadcast station KAYQ will be contacted by the EC or his representative, as possible, for spot announcements alerting ARES members.
- 3.5. If telephone service is available, the telephone tree is activated.
- 3.6. Upon the awareness or notification that a communications emergency exists, members of the BC ARES will call into the Benton County, MO Emergency Net on the 146.925 FM repeater with 147.480 FM simplex as an alternate frequency.
- 3.7. Mobile units are activated and dispatched.
- 3.8. The EC will assume net control or delegate another station as net control station (NCS). Control will be from Benton County, MO Emergency Operation Center (EOC).
- 3.9. This station is designated as a “Key Station” and will be extensively utilized during a communications emergency. Key Stations have full emergency power capability with relief operators assigned to ensure continuous operation.

### **4. DUTIES OF NCS**

- 4.1. The Benton County, MO Emergency Net will be called to order by the NCS.
- 4.2. Members of the BC ARES are checked into the net from their mobiles and home stations to await further instructions.
- 4.3. Liaison stations to the following National Traffic System nets will be assigned: Missouri Traffic Net, daily at 5:30 PM on 3.963 and Missouri Emergency Service Net on Sundays at 6 pm on 3.963. \*Times are subject to change due to conditions during different seasons.
- 4.4. Mobiles are dispatched as needed to agencies as required. This can include deployment of Benton County’s Emergency Communications trailer via the

Benton County, MO Emergency Management Agency. Callsign: WB0EM  
Callsign Trustee: KE0LMY Samantha Henley

- 4.5. Operators of home stations not on emergency power are coordinated to effectively operate the “Key Stations” as required.

## **5. OPERATIONS**

- 5.1. All written messages must be in standard ARRL form.
- 5.2. All messages must be signed by the official who originates them, with his title, taking responsibility for their contents.
- 5.3. Message precedences of EMERGENCY, Priority, Welfare and Routine, as defined on ARRL Form FSD-3, shall be used on all messages.
- 5.4. Stations do not transmit unless invited to do so by net control. The only exception to this is for a station having EMERGENCY traffic.

## **6. DRILLS, TESTS AND ALERTS**

- 6.1. An annual test will be conducted in October in conjunction with the nationwide ARRL Simulated Emergency Test.
- 6.2. The BC ARES will regularly supply public safety communications in conjunction with local events to test the effectiveness of the operation.
- 6.3. The BC ARES meets on the second Saturday of the month at 10 AM at the Benton County Central Dispatch (911) located at 1231 Hirsch Pkwy, Warsaw, MO 65355. Members are asked to attend at least one meeting each quarter to keep up-to-date with training and group activities.
- 6.4. At the discretion of the EC, the ARES will be activated unannounced via the telephone tree at least once per year.
- 6.5. The BC ARES will run weekly nets every Sunday night at 7 PM. The nets will be held on Benton County’s 146.925 (-) PL 107.2 repeater. If the repeater is not functional, the nets will be held on simplex frequency 147.480.