

# KANSAS CITY - NORTHLAND AMATEUR RADIO EMERGENCY SERVICE

WØKCN

AMATEUR RADIO OPERATOR

**DEPLOYMENT MANUAL**

April 2021

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## ***ARES PURPOSE***

The purpose of ARES (Amateur Radio Emergency Service) is to make voluntary radio communications services available to federal, state, county, local governments, hospitals and non-profit organizations.

ARES is composed of licensed amateurs who have voluntarily registered their qualifications and equipment for communications duty in public service or when disaster strikes. Amateur operators are eligible for ARES membership, regardless of whether they are members of ARRL or any other local or national organization.

## ***DEPLOYMENT MANUAL USAGE***

Northland ARES provides auxiliary communication via amateur radio by working with and through the Clay and Platte County Emergency Management Offices. All deployments are under the direction of Clay and Platte County Emergency Management offices.

This manual has been developed to hopefully make your job easier. It provides the Amateur Radio Operator with procedures and advice from the moment they are activated until the time they leave their designated support area.

Each Amateur Radio Operator should keep two copies of this Manual, one for your vehicle and one to keep in your ham shack.

If you do not yet have your county emergency services credentials, please see the section on "Member Credentialing Requirements".

## ***DOWNLOAD INSTRUCTIONS:***

YOU CAN FIND A LINK TO PDF <http://www.kcnorthares.org/policys-procedures/> – JUST CLICK ON THE NAME OF THE DOCUMENT TO DOWNLOAD IT TO PDF AND SAVE OR PRINT IT.

**UPDATES CAN BE EMAILED TO DENNIS CARPENTER [dcarpenter1@outlook.com](mailto:dcarpenter1@outlook.com)**

## **KEY LOCATIONS & CONTACTS**

### **AREAS SERVED**

W0KCN Northland ARES supports several County EOC's equipped with fixed amateur radio stations. We provide Amateur Radio Operators during times of need to these locations:

<b>CALL SIGN</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>Tactical Call Sign</b>
W0KCN-3	Platte County Resource Center EOC	Platte County Resource Center
W0KCN-4	Platte County EOC	Platte County EOC
W0KCN-5	Platte County Mobile Command (PRIME)	PRIME
W0KCN-13	Clay County EOC	Clay County Sheriffs (Dispatch)
W0KCN-14	Clay County Mobile Command	CCMIC
W0KCN-15	Clay County EOC (Smithville Fire Dept)	Clay County (Amateur) EOC

EOC's will sometimes be opened for small events as well as weather events.

### **LEADERSHIP**

Leadership for the KC Northland A.R.E.S. is made up of coordinators and leaders approved by the Clay County and Platte County Emergency Management Directors.

These leaders are responsible for interfacing and ensuring support from the Amateur Radio Community with the Emergency Management offices, Sheriff's offices, and other public, not-for-profit and private entities that work to support the community.

### **Counties Notifications**

Activation of the W0KCN Net is done using the Platte County TextCaster system, which sends email and/or a text message alerts. See Activations sections for more details.

Any time we activate the W0KCN Emergency Net, you must contact the counties involved both on activation and closure.

Clay County Emergency Management: (816) 407-3732

If no answer call: Clay County Sheriff's Dispatch: (816) 407-3700

Platte County Sheriff's Dispatch: (816) 858-3521

## **PLATTE COUNTY EOC**

Platte County EOC serves as the command center in Platte County for events requiring emergency communication and is the location where ARES members will operate in support of the EOC and County Emergency Services.

Address: **415 Third St., Suite 10 , Platte City, Missouri 64079**

### *LEADER*

**Rick Smith, KØKEX**  
*Rosmith1@hotmail.com*  
**(816) 392-0952 (cell)**

### *PLATTE CO SHERIFF'S DISPATCH*

**Deputy Mike O'Neal (KCØYSO)**  
*MOneal@plattesheriff.org*  
**(816) 243-7469 (work)**  
**(816) 210-7082 (cell)**

### *BUILDING SECURITY ACCESS PROCEDURE (for address above)*

- Place a call to Deputy Mike O'Neal 2-4 hours prior to the time you need to be there and let him know why you need to go to the EOC.
- Go to the Sheriff's Dept. behind the old courthouse on the square in Platte City
- Enter through first set of glass doors and push the intercom button
- Wait for the second set of doors to be unlocked.
- Go to the entrance of Sheriff's Department. Go through the glass doors. Go downstairs to the Command Center.
- Display your Northland ARES ID to the officer in charge. Tell them you need to gain entrance to the dispatch room.
- Dispatcher will come and let you in to the EOC.

## **PLATTE COUNTY RESOURCE CENTER**

Address: **11724 NW Plaza Circle, Kansas City, Missouri 64153**

### *LEADER*

**Rick Smith, KØKEX**  
*Rosmith1@hotmail.com*  
**(816) 392-0952 (cell)**

### *PLATTE CO SHERIFF'S DISPATCH*

**Deputy Mike O'Neal (KCØYSO)**  
*MOneal@plattesheriff.org*  
**(816) 243-7469 (work)**  
**(816) 210-7082 (cell)**

There is no ARES station in place. The ARES team will bring portable set up to run antennas outside of the EOC located on the lower level of the Platte County Resource Center.

## **PLATTE COUNTY MOBILE COMMAND (PRIME)**

The Platte County Mobile Command (PRIME) is a mobile unit based at West Platte Fire Station, Weston, Missouri. The PRIME is able to be deployed to any location as requested by the Platte County Emergency Management Department.

### *VOLUNTEER TEAM LEADERS*

Keith Kaiser (WA0TJT) and Deb Kaiser (W0DLK)

## **CLAY COUNTY EOC**

The Clay County EOC serves as the command center for events requiring emergency communication and is the location where ARES members in the Clay County area would operate in support of the EOC and County Emergency Services.

### **CLAY COUNTY (Amateur Radio) EOC**

Address:     Smithville Fire Station #2  
                 341 Park Drive  
                 Smithville, MO 64089

*CLAY COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT:*

**(816) 407-3730**

If no answer call: Clay County Sheriff's Dispatch (816) 407-3700

*LEADER & CHIEF AMATEUR RADIO OPERATOR*

**Dennis Carpenter, KAØSXY**

[Dcarpenter1@outlook.com](mailto:Dcarpenter1@outlook.com)

**(816) 421-5566 (cell)**

*LOGISTICS TECHNICIANS:* Bill Gerle (N0JJA)

### **CLAY COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT EOC**

12 South Waters  
Liberty, MO 64068  
**(816) 407-3730**

## **CLAY COUNTY MOBILE INCIDENT COMMAND (CCMIC)**

The Clay County Mobile Incident Command (CCMIC) is a mobile unit based at the Clay County Highway Maintenance Center. The CCMIC is able to be deployed to any location as requested by the Clay County Emergency Management Department.

### ***VOLUNTEER TEAM LEADERS***

**Tim Cott (KCØRWD)**

*tcott@kc.rr.com*

**(816) 507-2283**

**Mike Hall (KD0HFX)**

*mrmikehall@hotmail.com*

**(816) 516-0714**



## **ACTIVATION PROCEDURES**

### **SKYWARN & WEATHER NET ACTIVATION REQUIREMENTS**

In the event of severe weather, if SKYWARN is activated and Clay & Platte Counties are threatened, the KC Northland ARES will also activate a weather net.

The Northland ARES will communicate with the National Weather Service via NWS Chat (1 amateur to liaison per event) or through Kansas City area National Weather Service Skywarn. ARES members who wish to actively participate in weather spotter are encouraged to apply for an NWS Chat membership.

KC Northland ARES has joined with the National Weather Service to provide reliable weather reports during severe weather for Clay and Platte Counties.

Weather spotter training is required at least every two years in order to participate.

Any member of the KC Northland ARES group that has been trained in weather spotting can open the weather net.

- One member will activate a weather net and assume Net Control.
- A member of the net will also assume a liaison role with the National Weather Service via NWS Chat or Amateur Radio Skywarn.
- Any time we activate a weather net both Clay and Platte Counties must be notified at time of activation and when we close the weather net.

Clay County Emergency Management: (816) 407-3732  
(If no answer call: Clay County Sheriff's Dispatch (816) 407-3700) Platte County Sheriff's Dispatch: (816) 858-3521

When amateurs are aware of imminent severe weather (via observation, NOAA weather radio, or local media) they are asked to monitor the primary ARES frequencies.

### ***Weather Spotting***

Any member who participates in weather spotting is personally responsible for his/her own safety. The decision of weather spotting location is ultimately up to the spotter, however additional areas where spotting coverage is needed might be recommended by the Net Control or other trained spotters on the net.

For information on KC Northland ARES designated storm-spotting locations go to:  
<http://www.kcnorthares.org/policys-procedures/>

For more information about weather spotting go to:  
[https://www.weather.gov/media/owlie/SGJune6-11\(1\).pdf](https://www.weather.gov/media/owlie/SGJune6-11(1).pdf) .

## ***Weather Spotting Safety***

If you are asked to work at a spotting location, remember **SAFETY FIRST**. Be sure that your actions pose no danger to you or others.

- Stay away from overhead power lines and trees
- Be sure to park as far off the road as practical.
- Make sure you have more than one way in and out of your spotting post
- Be aware of the dangers during flash floods and lightening. Do not take unnecessary chances while driving in flooded areas. DO NOT attempt to drive or walk across a flooded roadway or low water crossing. Be especially careful at night when high waters are difficult to see.
- All laws and ordinances must be followed

The Net Controller will ask for information needed by the National Weather Service and will relay this to weather service or will delegate this responsibility to a liaison station. Reports will be sent via NWS Chat or Amateur Radio Skywarn. While relaying the information, he may ask net stations to stand by.

## ***Weather Spotting Operating Procedures***

- **Check in** - Net control will need to know where you are in relationship to the nearest major intersections.  
(We encourage each event is use <https://net-control.us/> as a net control management resource) See Net Control Manager Procedures in this Manual.
- KC Northland ARES has some pre-designated positions to regularly be used for storm spotting. If you are not in one of these positions, take special care to tell the net controller sight distances and obstructions you may have.
- The net controller will not know exactly where you are and have no way of knowing what your observing capacities are. Be patient and give extra information if requested.
- **Check out with Net Control**
  - Anytime you are leaving your position for any reason.
  - When you conclude your participation in the event.

It is critical that Net Control know that you have left your position, as Net Control needs to keep track of where all participants are for safety reasons.

## **Weather Spotting Criteria and reporting**

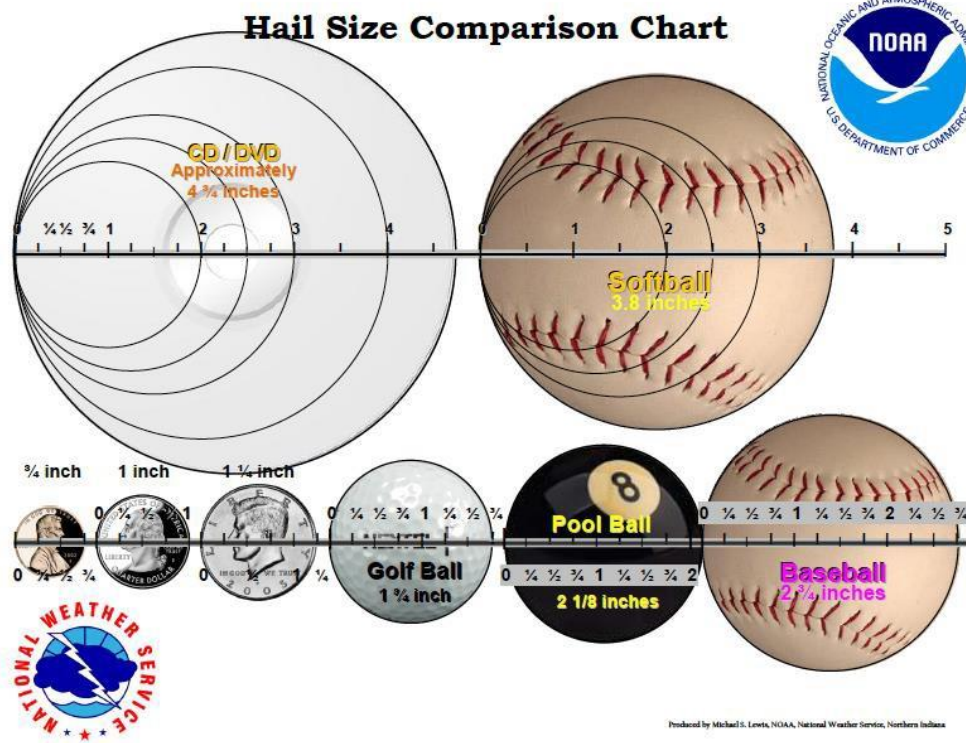
- Urgent Priority
  - Tornado
  - Funnel cloud
  - Rotating wall cloud
  - Flash flooding
- High Priority
  - Downed power lines
  - Any damage that is impacting public safety
  - Hail 1 inch diameter or larger
  - Wind speed greater than 58 mph
  - Persistent non-rotating wall cloud
  - Rainfall 1 inch or more per hour
- Lower Priority
  - Hail up to 1 inch in diameter
  - Wind speed greater than 40 mph
  - Cloud features suggesting storm organization.
- Report Briefly:
  - What you have seen: tornado, funnel cloud, wall cloud, waterspout, flash flooding, downed power lines, etc.
  - Where you saw it: the direction and distance from a known location, i.e., 3 miles south of Line Creek.
    - To avoid confusion, make sure you report the event location and not your location.
  - When you saw it.
  - What it was doing.
    - Describe the storm's direction and speed of travel, size, intensity and destructiveness.
  - Include any degree of uncertainty you have as needed, (i.e., "funnel cloud; no debris visible at the surface, but too far away to be certain it is not on the ground.")
  - Identify yourself and your location.

## **Wind speed reporting**

Estimate as follows:

- |             |   |
|-------------|---|
| • 25-31 mph | Large branches moving   whistling overhead wires                |
| • 32-38 mph | Whole trees moving   inconvenience in walking against the wind  |
| • 39-46 mph | Small branches (twigs) breaking   walking impeded               |
| • 47-54 mph | Slight structural damage   larger branches and weak limbs break |
| • 55-63 mph | Moderate structural and tree damage                             |
| • 64+ mph   | Heavy structural and tree damage                                |

## Hail Size Reporting



## Closing a Weather Net

Upon the completion of a weather event, a member must:

- Contact both Clay County Emergency Management and Platte County Sheriff's Office and official to notify them that we are closing down.
- Make sure that the net is recorded in the net control logs on the web as soon as possible, and
- Send an email to [dcarpenter1@outlook.com](mailto:dcarpenter1@outlook.com) and [rosmith1@hotmail.com](mailto:rosmith1@hotmail.com) with a summary of the net and a log of the events reported. This is to address any reporting requirements or request for clarification of the event.

Upon the completion of a weather event, Net Control must:

- Check off any person who has checked out of the Net
- Verify all operators who checked into the Net have also checked out.

## **RADIO SUPPORT WHILE SHELTERING-IN-PLACE**

There are situations when you might be able to provide radio support to Northland ARES while you are sheltering-in-place:

- If you can't get out of your current location, but you can safely use your radio.
- If you prefer to stay with your family and can safely use your radio while doing so.

These situations might arise during the following weather events:

- Major ice storm that shuts down travel and power
- Tornado that has made roads impassible.

You can still call in to the local repeater and offer your support in these ways:

- You can report damage conditions in your local area.
- You can support digital communications by passing traffic when requested.
- You can act as a relay between weak-signal stations and Net Control when you can hear both stations clearly.

## ***ACTIVATION PROCEDURES – EMERGENCY NET***

Any registered member of KC Northland ARES is authorized to activate an Emergency Net. In emergency situations, or when you receive a TextCaster\* message, members should monitor the Northland ARES primary repeater for additional information.

Once the Net has been activated, operators might be assigned to provide auxiliary communication.

\* Activation of additional radio operators will be done using the Platte County Text Caster System. You can find out more about TextCaster and how to join on this site: <http://www.kcnorthares.org/policys-procedures/activation>

## **ASSIGNMENT PROCEDURES**

### ***En Route to the Assignment***

**Remember safety first and obey all traffic laws.  
Remember to carry and display your ARES  
credentials.**

Once you receive your assignment, make sure you know where your assigned position is located. Net Control will most likely be busy assigning other tasks. You should have a map of Clay and Platte County in your vehicle for directions, even if you are relying on a mobile map's app, in the event you lose battery power or you have no internet connection.

Stay on the Net until you arrive at your assigned position. While en route, Net Control might require you to go to another location if necessary. You may also be asked to report traffic activity or weather conditions while en route.

### ***Entering your Assigned Position***

#### ***Check in and notify Net Control.***

- When you arrive at your assigned position, you must call Net Control to notify of your arrival.
- Locate the person in command and identify yourself as the designated radio operator
- Check In
- Receive your assignments
- Find out what resources are available – power sources, generators, etc.

If operating from a hospital or local EOC, equipment is already installed.

## ***Operating Procedures and Protocols***

The nets will be directed nets and you must always follow the directions and instructions of Net Control.

Each Amateur Radio Operator might be assigned a tactical call sign specific to the location to which they have been assigned.

Once you are set up, go to the "Operations" net on the assigned frequency. When you first check in identify yourself with your call sign followed by your assigned position. Thereafter, use a tactical call sign when calling Net Control. For example, "Operations, Gladstone Shelter 1," or "Operations, North Kansas City Hospital."

If you want to speak with someone else on the net, ask Net Control for permission. Net Control might ask you to take the other station off the net to another frequency.

Operators should maintain net discipline and avoid casual chatter to allow for emergency & priority traffic. Speak only when requested to do so by Operations, the served agency or in case of an emergency. (Refer to pages 4-6 for served agency contacts).

Never leave the net frequency or walk away from your radio without telling Net Control. When you have completed a shift at your location, ALWAYS check out with Net Control and identify with your FCC call sign.

Use AC power if possible. When the power goes out, use your back up power source. Let Net Control know that you have lost power at your location. Remember to use the minimum power necessary to maintain effective communications to lengthen your battery life.

REMEMBER, WE have only one job, which is communications support, unlike the police and other agencies we are supporting. They are doing a lot more. Remain patient and considerate in all of your dealings with the agencies and the public and represent KC Northland ARES well.

## ***Sending Messages***

Always ask the person in charge to put all messages in writing (except for emergency traffic). Log all traffic in your radio log. Use the formats below when sending messages.

1. Emergency Traffic – If you have emergency traffic, contact Net Control with "**Break, Break, Emergency Traffic**". When acknowledged by Net Control, give your tactical call sign, and type of emergency. All routine traffic should cease immediately and remain off the air until Net Control reopens the frequency.
  - a. When passing Emergency Traffic, do not disclose personal information or, in the case of injuries, the exact nature of those injuries over the air unless specifically requested to do so by EOC or emergency services staff.



2. Priority Traffic - Whenever a served agency makes a request for materials and manpower, this must be sent as Priority Traffic using the ICS format. **ONLY SERVED AGENCY STAFF SHOULD ORIGINATE PRIORITY TRAFFIC.**

Notify Net Control that you have Priority Traffic. Example, "0W0KCN, Shelter 1 with Priority Traffic." Net Control will direct you to another frequency or tell you to call your station.

3. Routine Traffic - Contact Net Control and let them know you have Routine Traffic and who it is for (EOC or other location). They will instruct you what to do next.  
Routine traffic is a general information or request. (e.g., "Shelters full, what next?" "Can we open our shelter?")
  - a. You must assign a message number to this message for your log. This way if needed, we can refer back using that number. Then pass your traffic at normal talk speed.
4. Health & Welfare Traffic – During quiet times, shelter evacuees may request that health & welfare traffic be passed to family members or vice versa. Amateur Radio Operators can pass & receive such traffic using the ARRL format.
  - a. Unless using a dual band radio, you should first notify Net Control that you will be off the net frequency passing Health & Welfare Traffic. Such transmissions should be limited to ten minutes or so, so you can check back into the net in case priority or routine traffic is standing by to be passed.

### ***Maintaining your Radio Log***

All Amateur Radio Operator activities must be documented from the time you first check into your assigned position until you are released. It is good to work in teams, so one person can handle the radio communications and the other document and then switch positions to stay fresh. Operators should log the following activities:

1. Checking in and out of the net.
2. Sending any traffic. Note the message number, time and date and message summary.
3. Received messages. Note the message number, time, date, name of sender and message summary.
4. Specific instructions from the person in charge.

It is very important to document every activity using an ARRL Radiogram with ICS formal message handling procedure. If questions are raised after the event, the EOC Coordinator can refer to the logs and answer any questions. All logs should be sent to the EOC Leaders of Clay & Platte Counties via email upon completion of the event. You can find the contact information on pages 4-6 above.



## ***Operator Don'ts***

- Don't argue with the person in charge, staff or evacuees.
  - If you have a problem with a staff member or an evacuee at a shelter for example, contact the shelter manager.
  - If you have a problem with a shelter manager, contact the EOC and describe the nature of the problem. The EOC will then either advise you or will contact EOC officials.
- Do not talk to the media. A Public Information Officer (PIO) will be appointed as part of ICS procedures and that person should do all the communications with media. You can refer the media to the PIO.
- Don't do other tasks.
  - Unless requested by the EOC and approved by the EC, you are only to provide backup and emergency communication.
  - The shelter staff and shelter evacuees will handle all other tasks. This is for liability reasons.
  - If you decide to do other tasks without the EC's approval, you will be doing this task as a non-ARES member and you must check out from the net. while performing the task and check back into the net when done.
- Do not bring weapons to the assignment.
- Do not bring any type of alcoholic beverage or non-prescription drugs to the assignment. ARES forbids any member to consume alcoholic beverages during any activation.
- Any ARES member who arrives at a location under the influence of alcohol or drugs will be escorted from the location and might lose their credentials and membership in ARES.
- Do not allow any non-amateur to operate your station unsupervised.
  - ARES allows Third Party Priority & Routine Traffic only if an Amateur Radio Operator is manning a station.
  - A non-amateur can ONLY operate your station without a control operator when life and property are at risk.
- Don't assume. We are to provide facts not assumptions. Many people listen to us including county officials, media, and the general public. Information that is assumed could cause panic and chaos. Only report the facts. If you are not sure, get confirmation.
- Refuse to participate in gossip, spread rumors or express opinions (on or off the air). You do not know who is listening to us and we do not want to offend anyone who works for our served agencies.

### ***Leaving the Assigned Location***

- CLEAN up the area where you were stationed. Make it look like you were not even there.
- ORGANIZE Put all documents in an envelope and mark it with the name of your supported location.
- Break down your station.
- CHECK OUT PROCEDURE
  - Call to let Net Control know that you are returning to your home location.
  - Check out with the person in charge.
  - Send your logs to the EOC Leaders at the end of your engagement. (See pages 4-6 for EOC contacts).
  - Call Net Control when you start your return home in your vehicle.
  - Call Net Control upon arrival at your destination. This will be your official end of service time.

### **NET CONTROL MANAGER PROCEDURES**

We encourage each event to use <https://net-control.us/> as a net control management resource.

This Net Control Manager tool is provided as a tool for nets and goes beyond the typical net logger programs.

The main features and functions of this tool provide the ability to:

- Set up a new net, complete with a customized Preamble, Agenda and Closing
- Check in and manage net participant assignments as they contact Net Control.
- Provide ability to add and track comments, announcements and other information by Call Sign of those who check in
- Track all the volunteer hours for a given net.
- Create a 214 Report for the net
- Create sub-nets under a main primary net and aggregate all the statistics on reports.

You can learn more about the features and procedures in the Help file on the website net-control.us or in the periodic training sessions provided in our monthly meetings.

## **MEMBER CREDENTIALING REQUIREMENTS**

You must take the ICS courses and submit your certificate for ICS-100 and 700 Training in order to get your credentials for Emergency Services. Once you obtain your certificates, you should submit them to Dep. Michael O'Neal before you are officially credentialed. ([Michael.Oneal@plattesherriff.org](mailto:Michael.Oneal@plattesherriff.org)).

Find information on how to get ICS training from FEMA at the following site:  
<http://training.fema.gov/IS/NIMS.aspx>

- Be aware your credentials will have an expiration date.
- Your credentials should be worn and prominently displayed at any event.
- All members are requested to complete a county background check form, a requirement to obtain your ARES ID credentials provided by the emergency management offices.
- It is the responsibility of each member to ensure their personal information is kept up to date at all times on the group's website or current information repository.
- All members must keep the Emergency Coordinator (EC) apprised of any changes in their equipment or amateur status that may affect the operations of ARES.

## **FREQUENCY MATRIX -**

This is a copy of the frequencies to be used for emergency services and the backup frequencies that will be used if any should go down or become unavailable.

<b>KC NORTHLAND EMERGENCY SERVICES FREQUENCY MATRIX</b>					
<b>W0KCN REPEATERS</b>			<b>VHF DIGITAL OPERATION (Shared Regionally)</b>		
Primary Repeater	146.79 - PL 107.2	-600	Primary Simplex	145.75 0	BPSK63 @ 1500 Hz waterfall
Secondary Repeater	147.330+ PL 151.4	+600	Secondary Simplex	145.73 0	BPSK63 @ 1500 Hz waterfall
Third Repeater	145.430 – No Tone	-600	Third Simplex	145.71 0	BPSK63 @ 1500 Hz waterfall
<b>W0KCN SIMPLEX</b>			<b>HF OPERATIONS</b>		
Primary Simplex	146.570		Primary	3.585.5	BPSK31 @ 1500 Hz waterfall
Secondary Simplex	147.580				
Tertiary Simplex	146.400				
<b>SKYWARN</b>			<b>APRS</b>		
SkyWarn	146.79 -107.2			144.39 0	
Regional	146.70 - 107.2				
SkyWarn Backup	145.19 - 107.2				

**WinLink “RMS” frequencies for the area: 145.01, 145.03, 145.05, 145.07 and 145.09.**

### **“GO KIT” RECOMMENDATIONS**

Each person will want to include the items that are important to them, based upon the way in which they choose to operate.

This matrix was put together by members of Northland ARES, in hope that it will help you create your own “Go Kit”.

ITEM	Weather Spotting	Amateur Radio Gear	24 Hour Response	Extended Response
2- Meter Handheld	X	X	X	X
Extra Batteries for Hand Held	X	X	X	X
Flash Light	X	X	X	X
Extra Batteries for Flashlight	X	X	X	X
First Aid Kit	X	X	X	X
Extra power supply		X		
Extra Coax and Connectors		X		
Maps	X	X	X	X
Medications			X	X
Water	X		X	X
Power bars	X		X	X
Insurance Card	X		X	X
Foul Weather Gear	X		X	X
Personal Hygiene	X			X
Field Mount Antenna		X		
Whistle	X		X	X
Compass/Maps/GPS	X		X	X
Reflective Clothing	X		X	X
Paper & Pencil/Pen	X		X	X
Digital Camera	X		X	X
Identification	X		X	X
Tool Kit/Multi-tool	X		X	X
MRE			X	X
Northland ARES Hat	X	X	X	X

## **SAFETY FIRST**

KC Northland ARES does not require anyone to work under conditions in which the volunteer personally does not feel safe. One goal of KC Northland ARES is to provide for the safety of persons and property in the county. Safety is our most important function.

All spotting locations should have two adequate escape routes or available shelter. In the event of lightning or hail you should remain in your car. Situational awareness is key. You should evacuate the area if your safety is threatened.

When traveling to and from spotting locations, use caution. Storm spotting does not authorize you to travel at an unsafe speed or engage in any careless or reckless driving.

You should be alert for conditions of high water or flash flooding during and following heavy rains. Remember, "Turn around, don't drown." Avoid such situations and report them to Net Control.

Report any suspicious activity at your spotting location to Net Control.

(a) If you should have an unidentified car pull up near you, advise Net Control that you have a "visitor". Net Control will log your call and will contact you to check your status in a few minutes.

(b) Indication of a "visitor" will not automatically result in Net Control requesting that a uniformed officer or marked police car respond to your location. If law enforcement personnel are needed at your location, you should specifically request this.

(c) A law enforcement officer will be dispatched to your location if (1) you request this, or (2) you do not respond to a visitor check from Net Control.

(d) If the "visitor" leaves, or your concern in this situation is otherwise resolved, advise Net Control. No further status checks will be made by Net Control.

(e) You are authorized to leave the spotting location if your safety is threatened. If you perceive an immediate personal risk or threat, LEAVE the location immediately and advise Net Control of your action and situation. You are also permitted to refuse instructions if Net Control is not aware of the immediate situation. Do advise

Net Control of your circumstances as soon as possible.

***We hope this manual is of help and makes your job as radio operator much easier.***

***If you need additional information, please refer to [kcnorthares.org](http://kcnorthares.org) or talk to one of the EOC Leaders.***

## **NET CONTROL MANAGER PROCEDURES**

We encourage each event to use <https://net-control.us/> as a net control management resource.

This Net Control Manager tool is provided as a tool for nets and goes beyond the typical net logger programs.

The main features and functions of this tool provide the ability to:

- Set up a new net, complete with a customized Preamble, Agenda and Closing
- Check in and manage net participant assignments as they contact Net Control.
- Provide ability to add and track comments, announcements and other information by Call Sign of those who check in
- Track all the volunteer hours for a given net.
- Create a 214 Report for the net
- Create sub-nets under a main primary net and aggregate all the statistics on reports.

You can learn more about the features and procedures in the Help file on the website [net-control.us](http://net-control.us) or in the periodic training sessions provided in our monthly meetings.