

Action Plan for Activation of Ramona Area CERT and ROARS Communicators

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Introduction

This document describes the action plan for civilian, 2-way communicators in the event of an emergency or disaster in the Ramona, CA area. Two groups have been identified as possessing the equipment and skills necessary to implement effective 2-way communications in the Ramona area in the event that other communications methods are ineffective as a result of an emergency or disaster.

These groups are:

CERT – Community Emergency Response Team members

ROARS – Ramona Outback Amateur Radio Society members

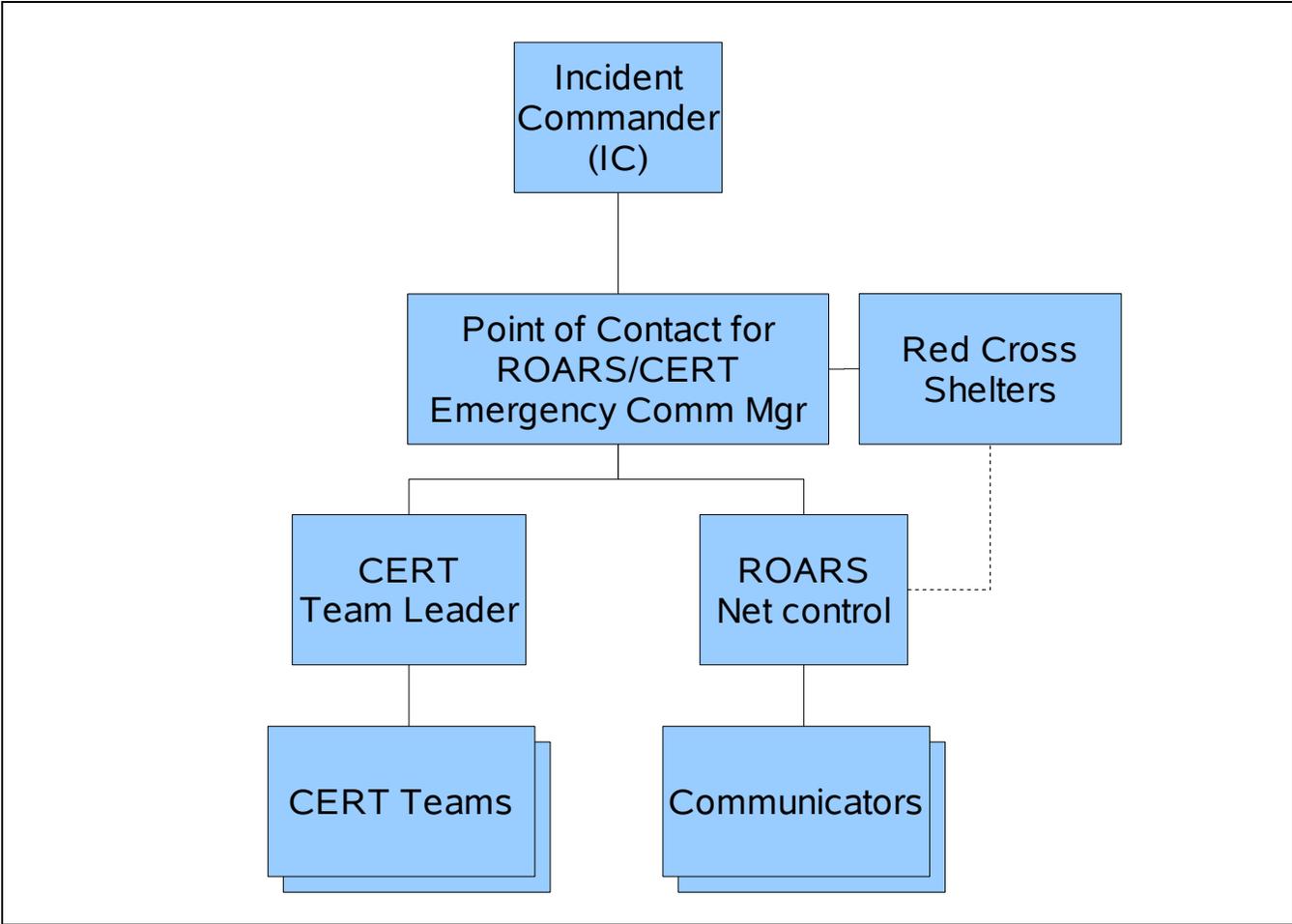
In some cases, an individual may belong to both groups.

In this document, the term *net* is used to describe a network of communicators. In the case of an emergency or disaster, the nets described herein use voice over 2-way radios. Other communications technologies may also be available and will be used as appropriate.

This plan is organized into four sections: activation procedures, radio information, procedural documents, and a confidential section containing personnel contact information.

1. Activation Procedures

The civilian communicators can be activated by direction of the incident commander. A point-of-contact (POC) will be identified (see personnel section below) and will be responsible for activating the amateur radio net and Family Radio Service (FRS) net. Both nets are expected to be activated due to the limited direct radio coverage in the Ramona area due to the geography. Most ROARS communicators also have FRS equipment. ROARS communicators are skilled at passing traffic between nets.



2. Radio Information

This section describes the methods used by various government agencies and the general public for communications in the event of an emergency. Radio channel or frequency information is provided so that scanners or general purpose receivers can be used by the general public.

2.1. Commercial Broadcast Radio Information

The primary Emergency Alert System (EAS) broadcast station in San Diego is KOGO, 600 kHz on the AM broadcast band. Other radio and TV stations may also rebroadcast emergency alerts.

2.2. Family Radio Service Information

The Family Radio Service (FRS) is an unlicensed (citizen's band) 2-way radio service. FRS channel 1 is the national emergency frequency, 462.5625 MHz. Citizens can tune into FRS channel 1 for information or to communicate with the net control during an emergency. Section 3.3 provides an example of the information you should hear on a FRS radio during an emergency.

Many FRS radios have privacy codes or interference eliminator codes. If you have these codes enabled, then you may not be able to hear the emergency traffic or information on FRS channel 1. Consult your radio instructions to determine how to disable privacy codes.

There are many locations in the Ramona area where FRS radios can not be used to communicate with other areas. In general, FRS radios work well for line-of-sight communications. You may have difficulty with FRS reception if you are in a low spot or canyon. For best results, always keep your radio in an upright position with the antenna pointing skyward. See section 2.4 for a chart showing 2-way radio coverage for the Ramona area.

2.3. Amateur Radio Equipment Information

ROARS operates and maintains the following radio communications facilities. Unless otherwise noted, frequency modulation (FM) is used.

<i>Description</i>	<i>Frequency (MHz)</i>	<i>Offset</i>	<i>PL Tone</i>	<i>Power Supply</i>	<i>Notes</i>
2-meter repeater 924 Etcheverry Street, Ramona	145.300	-600 kHz	88.5	SDGE, battery, solar	autopatch (telephone) link capable
70 cm repeater 924 Etcheverry Street, Ramona	445.760	-5 MHz	88.5	SGDE, battery, solar	Echolink internet link capable
APRS digipeater Julian, CA	144.390	-	-	battery, solar	

Other local amateur radio equipment frequently used by ROARS members in the Ramona area.

<i>Description</i>	<i>Frequency (MHz)</i>	<i>Offset</i>	<i>PL Tone</i>	<i>Power Supply</i>	<i>Notes</i>
2-meter repeater Mount Palomar	147.030	+600 kHz	103.5	SDGE, battery	owned by ECRA, excellent coverage of the back country, National Weather Service weather net, autopatch
National simplex frequency	146.520	none	none	not applicable	difficult to provide coverage in many locations in the area. Repeaters are preferred. See section 3.4

2.4. Ramona Area VHF Simplex Coverage

This chart shows the coverage for 2-way VHF (2-meter) in the Ramona area.

	Fire Station 80	Fire Station 81	Fire Station 82	CDF 16310 Hwy 67	CDF Ramona airport	S.D. Sheriff	USFS Goose Valley	James Duke Elem	Olive Pierce School	Ramona Elem	Mt. Woodson Elem	N. County Health Svc	SDCE Stores	Ramona Community ctr	Hwy 78 & Weekend Villa	Dos Picos Park	San Vicente & Wildcat Cyn	Old Julian & Vista Ramona	Delamo & Rutherford	Ramona Oaks & Tranquility	Fernbrook	243xx Watt Rd SDCE	Julian Township
Fire Station 80	□	□	●	—	●	?	?	●	●	?	?	?	?	●	—	?	□	●	□	□	—	●	●
Fire Station 81		□	—	□	●	—	—	●	□	—	□	—	●	—	—	□	●	—	●	●	—	●	●
Fire Station 82			□	●	●	—	—	—	—	□	●	□	—	●	—	□	—	—	□	●	—	●	●
CDF 16310 Hwy 67				●	—	—	—	—	—	□	●	□	—	●	—	□	—	—	□	●	—	●	●
CDF Ramona airport					●	●	□	—	●	●	●	□	●	●	—	●	□	?	?	?	?	●	●
S.D. Sheriff						●	—	—	?	●	□	●	□	●	—	□	□	□	—	—	—	□	●
USFS Goose Valley						—	—	—	?	●	□	●	□	●	—	—	□	□	—	—	—	□	●
James Duke Elem						—	—	—	—	—	□	—	●	—	—	—	?	?	?	?	?	□	—
Olive Pierce School						—	—	—	—	●	●	□	□	●	—	—	?	?	?	?	?	□	—
Ramona Elem						—	—	—	—	●	●	□	—	●	—	□	□	□	—	—	□	□	●
Mt. Woodson Elem						—	—	—	—	—	●	□	□	●	—	□	□	□	●	●	—	□	●
N. County Health Svc						—	—	—	—	—	—	□	●	●	—	—	?	?	?	?	?	□	●
SDCE Stores						—	—	—	—	—	—	—	□	—	—	—	—	?	?	?	?	□	●
Ramona Community ctr						—	—	—	—	—	—	—	□	●	●	—	—	?	?	?	?	□	●
Hwy 78 & Weekend Villa						—	—	—	—	—	—	—	□	—	●	—	—	?	?	?	?	□	●
Dos Picos Park						—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	?	?	?	?	?	□	●
San Vicente & Wildcat Cyn						—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	?	?	?	?	?	□	●
Old Julian & Vista Ramona						—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	□	—	—	□	●
Delamo & Rutherford						—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	?	?	?	?	?	□	●
Ramona Oaks & Tranquility						—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	?	?	?	?	?	□	●
Fernbrook						—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	?	?	?	?	?	□	●
243xx Watt Rd SDCE						—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	?	?	?	?	?	□	●
Julian Township						—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	?	?	?	?	?	□	●

Key: — no direct communication possible
 □ communication barely possible, open squelch required
 ● communication possible, readable, but weak
 ● strong signal
 ? unknown, at this time

3. Procedures

3.1. Net Activation Procedure

1. In the event of unusual weather or any other emergency, it is requested that all CERT and ROARS members use the ROARS 2-meter repeater (145.300 MHz, -600 kHz offset, 88.5 PL tone) and attempt to contact net control.
Monitoring the Family Radio Service channel 1 (no PL or privacy tones) is also recommended. Monitoring the ECRA Mount Palomar 2-meter repeater (147.030 MHz, +600 kHz offset, 103.5 PL tone) is also recommended.
2. If there is no directed net operating, use the net control script and procedures to establish a directed net.
 - Net control script is in a later section or online at <http://www.roars.net>
 - Indicate the reason for the net activation
 - Call roll of ROARS personnel
 - Maintain list of checkins, checkouts, and time
 - Assist in passing traffic
 - Maintain control of net frequency use
 - Prioritize emergency or priority traffic
 - Assign assistant net control operators as needed
3. Maintain efficient operation of the net as needed.

3.2. Amateur Radio Net Control Script

The following script can be used by a licensed amateur radio operator to begin a net during an emergency or disaster situation. This net may be started on one of the frequencies listed in section 3.2 and anyone can listen to the net on those frequencies.

Attention. Attention. Attention. This is [callsign and name] calling the Ramona Outback Amateur Radio Society emergency services on [date] at [time]. We will be using this frequency for emergency communication and notification. This is [an actual emergency or drill].

This is a directed net. Please make no transmissions unless called upon by the net control station. Emergency traffic may break into this net at anytime and will be acknowledged by net control.

Stand by for important information. [indicate the nature of the emergency and repeat any authoritative information as requested by government agencies].

We will now begin taking checkins by roll call.

We will now accept other checkins.

We will now accept volunteers to act as assistant net control.

We will now accept announcements, queries, or other business for the net.

Periodically, perhaps every 5 minutes or so, please repeat the information on the emergency and remind listeners that the net is in session.

Attention. Attention. Attention. This is [callsign and name] calling the Ramona Outback

Amateur Radio Society emergency services on [date] at [time]. We will be using this frequency for emergency communication and notification. This is [an actual emergency or drill].

This is a directed net. Please make no transmissions unless called upon by the net control station. Emergency traffic may break into this net at anytime and will be acknowledged by net control.

Stand by for important information. *[indicate the nature of the emergency and repeat any authoritative information as requested by government agencies].*

We will now accept checkins, announcements, queries, or other business for the net.

The net will conclude as requirements dictate.

3.3. FRS Net Control Script

The following script can be used by an amateur radio operator or CERT member to begin a Family Radio Service (FRS) net during an emergency or disaster situation.

Attention. Attention. Attention. This is [name] calling the Community Emergency Response Team emergency services on [date] at [time]. We will be using Family Radio Service Channel 1 for emergency communication and notification. This is [an actual emergency or drill].

This is a directed net. Please make no transmissions unless called upon by the net control station. Emergency traffic may break into this net at anytime and will be acknowledged by net control.

Stand by for important information. *[indicate the nature of the emergency and repeat any authoritative information as requested by government agencies].*

We will now begin taking checkins by roll call of CERT members.

We will now accept other checkins.

We will now accept volunteers to act as assistant net control. This is important for the Family Radio Service because it is difficult to cover all areas of Ramona from a single transmitting location. If you would like to be an assistant net control station, please call now by stating your name and location.

We will now accept announcements, queries, or other business for the net.

Periodically, perhaps every 5 minutes or so, please repeat the information on the emergency and remind listeners that the net is in session. This periodic information should be repeated by all assistant net control stations in turn.

Attention. Attention. Attention. This is [name] calling the Community Emergency Response Team emergency services on [date] at [time]. We will be using Family Radio Service Channel 1 for emergency communication and notification. This is [an actual emergency or drill].

This is a directed net. Please make no transmissions unless called upon by the net control station. Emergency traffic may break into this net at anytime and will be acknowledged by net control.

Stand by for important information. *[indicate the nature of the emergency and repeat any*

authoritative information as requested by government agencies].

We will now accept checkins, announcements, queries, or other business for the net.

The net will conclude as requirements dictate.

4. Red Cross Shelter Communications

The Red Cross often uses amateur radio operators when staffing emergency shelters. Amateur radio operators who are at shelters are encouraged to check in with the shelter staff and identify the communications capabilities at the shelter.

The Amateur Radio Emergency Services (ARES) is often used to staff emergency shelters. The Ramona area ARES Emergency Coordinator is accessible via the ROARS point of contact.

- end of public section -