BRANCH COUNTY EMERGENCY NET

Weekly Net Operation

PREAMBLE

Calling all amateurs (repeat)

This is _____ Net Control Station for the Branch County Emergency Net. My name is _____ and I am located _____. This is a directed net.

The primary purpose of this net is to follow the progress of severe weather as it moves into and through Branch County. The secondary purpose is to provide a forum to become better acquainted and share news and ideas for the advancement of amateur radio.

This net meets each Tuesday with the exception of the third Tuesday of the month at 7:00 PM local time on the WD8KAF/repeater. This repeater operates on a frequency of 147.30 MHz, with a 100 Hz subaudible tone. Primary backup frequency is 147.55 Mhz simplex and secondary backup frequency is 146.55 Mhz simplex. We will also utilize our UHF repeater, which operates on a frequency of 443.3 MHz with a 123 Hz subaudible tone, immediately following the conclusion of the VHF portion of the Net. Regular participants in this net are Branch County members of the Amateur Radio Emergency Service and any other licensed amateur sincerely interested in emergency service. I will now stand by for any mobile or portable stations, only, wishing to check in to the Branch County Emergency Net. This is _____ over. I will now stand by for any stations wishing to check in to the Branch County Emergency Net. This is _____ over.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Take check-ins from the net. At a natural pause in the process, ask stations to stand by while the NCS recognizes each station thus far checked in by callsign and name. If you do not recognize the callsign, ask for name and location. After the first group of stations have been recognized, ask again for further checkins. Never guess at a callsign, if you have any doubt ask for phonetic spelling. Repeat this process until there are no more stations to check in.

Ask for report from Emergency Coordinator (WB8R, Larry) Ask for reports from other leadership officials.

Ask for additional check-ins. Acknowledge new stations by callsign and name and add them to the list.

Announce topic for discussion. Begin transmissions with mobile stations first, followed by stations by order in which they checked into the net.

Ask for additional check-ins. Acknowledge new stations by callsign and name and add them to the list.

Make second round of transmissions.

Final call for check-ins.

CLOSING THE NET

"This is _____, Net Control Station for the Branch County Emergency Net, now closing the net at _____ *(Time).* **I would like to thank all stations for their participation in the net. This is _____. Out."**

NCS Reports to Emergency Coordinator

Net detail information should be reported to the Emergency Coordinator (N8VM) upon the conclusion of the net or as soon as possible thereafter. These reports are to be in standard ARRL message form and should be transmitted during a net session.

Reportable information includes:

- *Net Name (BCEN)*
- *Net Date*
- *Number of Checkins (QNI)*
- *Identity of Net Control (NCS)*
- *Callsigns of net participants*
- *Number of formal messages passed during the net (QTC)*

If assistance is required to formulate and/or transmit formal messages, please ask the ARES leadership for help.

Net Do's and Don'ts

Participants

Wait for the beep

There is no need to use NCS's callsign. In a net this just wastes time.

Remember that the FCC requires that you identify your station at the end of your transmission or every 10 minutes. Even though you ID'd at the beginning of your transmission, you still must ID at the end.

Remember that the NCS is in charge. Never challenge that authority. If you have an issue with how something was done on a net, call the NCS on the telephone after the net and discuss it. NEVER air dirty laundry on the air.

The most important thing about net operation is knowing when to be quiet.

Know what is important and what is not. Depending on the stage that the net is in, what was ok to report before the storm arrives is a waste of the net's time when we are tracking a funnel cloud.

Remember, our severe weather reporting has the potential of being a life or death situation for many residents of our community. The 911 center and the WX Svc depend on us for accurate, professional reports.

Be aware that many people are always listening. Always represent amateur radio in the proper way. Do not offer opinions on controversial subjects or suggest operating techniques that are contrary to what Part 97 tells us.

The FCC requires that we have a copy of Part 97 available at our stations. You can access it through the ARRL website at www.arrl.org. If you haven't reviewed it yet, it is time to do it.

NCS

The job of NCS is to be a collector and disseminator of information. He must do this in such a way so as to facilitate the flow of information.

He should be identifying himself and the net frequently and asking for additional checkins.

"This is KC8XYZ and the Branch County Emergency Net. We are looking for additional checkins, please call now, over."

During the transmission portion of the net, this call for checkins should take place between every other transmission.

If a station has to wait a long time to check in, it is a good bet that he will get discouraged and go do something else and we will have lost a check in.

Formulate your report for the net to be transmitted to the EC or other designated station.