



Harris County Amateur Radio Emergency Service

FACT SHEET

Introduction

The Harris County Amateur Radio Emergency Service (HCARES) provides emergency communications to agencies and volunteer organizations.

It is a field organization of the American Radio Relay League (ARRL), the national association for Amateur Radio. It is composed of FCC licensed amateur radio operators trained in emergency communications and volunteering their personal time, skill and equipment, to serve in the public interest.

As of 2nd quarter 2006, the total membership is approx 200.

Beneficiaries

HCARES provides auxiliary communications by radio for state and local emergency operations centers, hospitals and disaster relief shelters

Communication Characteristics

HCARES provides emergency communications when normal systems are either inoperable or overloaded. This can be provided using voice and data links.

- Voice is suited for quick, direct and relatively simple messages
- Data is suited for messages that are complicated, very detailed, high volume or where high accuracy is required
- Data can be provided from point-to-point or via internet in a style very similar to email

Applications

Emergency applications include:

- Maintaining communications between hospitals, emergency operations centers and shelters
- Providing information from mobile or portable units to a central location

Contacts

To discuss how HCARES can meet your community's emergency communications needs, please contact:

	Emergency Coordinator	Contact
Ken Mitchell	Harris County EC	kenm1@ev1.net h: 281.257.3044 or
Hal Merritt	North West County EC	halm@hal-pc.org
Richard Driscoll	North East County EC	lloscirdjr@sbcglobal.net or cell 281.704.8196
Doug Cline	South East County EC	n5dcc@arrl.net or cell 281.798.5012
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