

DIS-101D
RRT's and Other Abbreviations

EXCERPTED from District 14 Emergency Communications Plan (DIS-101)

Prepared Oct. 7, 2017 by KE5JBW

Tonight's training is taken primarily from Section 12 of the District 14 Emergency Communications Plan, and from Appendix E of the Plan.

RRT's:

Most ARES® units employ some form of response team. In some areas they are called Quick Response Teams (QRTs). The ARRL® Emergency Communications Course calls them Rapid Response Teams, or RRT's, and there are many other variations, including *Ready* Response Teams.

While the team name may be different, they all have a similar role to play in the EmComm scheme of things. That role is to provide effective and efficient emergency communications when required. Within District 14 ARES® the goal is to have an "RRT" assigned to each served agency. Served agencies with which a Memorandum of Understanding has been entered into will receive priority.

Each RRT is composed of three to five qualified Amateur Radio operators, including the RRT Leader. The primary goal of the RRT is to provide service as a team of qualified EmComm communicators for the specific served agency to which it is assigned. When the team arrives on site they are READY, familiar with the needs of the served agency, trained and ready to go to work. When not called upon to support their assigned agency, their secondary objective is to provide backup support to other RRTs.

In District 14 ARES®, RRT's are called Rapid Response Teams. They are comprised of a group of 3 to 5 qualified EmComm operators who are permanently assigned to a served agency. A Team Leader is responsible for their organization and training. RRTs should be prepared to operate from an assigned agency for 36 to 48 hours, with operators rotating, and under a pre-planned ICS formatted plan.

Now that you know about RRT's, here are some other abbreviations that are used in ARES:

ADEC – Assistant District Emergency Coordinator, an appointee 2nd in command of ARES® activities in a county cluster or contiguous counties comprising a District.

AEC – Assistant Emergency Coordinator

APRS – Automatic Packet Reporting System – A digital system that transmits and displays data on maps on computer screens. Highly effective as a parallel to voice circuits

DEC – District Emergency Coordinator, an appointee in charge of ARES® activities in a county cluster or contiguous counties comprising a District.

EC -- Emergency Coordinator – An ARES appointee who supervises emergency planning operations in a specified geographical area. Reports to the DEC.

EOC – Emergency Operations Center

FEMA – Federal Emergency Management Agency

ICS -- Incident Command System– This is a management tool designed to bring multiple responding agencies, including those from different jurisdictions, together under a single overall command structure.

MOU -- Memorandum of Understanding

NOAA -- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. This is the home agency for the National Weather Service.

NTS – National Traffic System. A field organization of the American Radio Relay League.

NWS – National Weather Service.

QST – “Attention all listening stations.” A comprehensive listing of “Q” signals used by military and Amateur Radio operators can be found on the Internet by simply entering “comprehensive list of Q signals” in Google or another search engine.

RACES – Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service

SEC -- Section Emergency Coordinator. The Official responsible for all ARES activities within a Section.

SEOC – State Emergency Operations Center in Austin, Texas.

SET – Simulated Emergency Test, which is a national communications exercise held each year in October. The American Radio Relay League sponsors the annual SET

STX -- South Texas, referring to the South Texas Section of the ARRL; the website for the South Texas Section is www.arrlstx.org.

This is not a complete list of all the abbreviations that are used in the District 14 Emergency Communications plan, or that are used in ARES, the ARRL, or other ham-related organizations.

The one “Q”-code in this list is the only item on the list that is not a true “abbreviation,” which would use the first letter of each word of the term referred to, or just the first part of the word, as we do for months, such as Oct. for October.

Q-codes themselves are in four groups: one for the International Civil Aviation Organization, which of course is called ICAO. There is also a group for the Maritime Mobile Service, and another assigned by the International Telecommunications Union Radiocommunication Sector. The Q-codes we use were developed by The [American Radio Relay League](http://www.arrl.org) (ARRL).

This concludes tonight's training on RRT's and Other Abbreviations. This training was excerpted from the District 14 Emergency Communications Plan, which can be found in the training section of the Harris County ARES website.

[Optional: Any net participants or other listeners are invited to stay with us and participate in a quiz about tonight's abbreviations!]

Optional game: NC or BU/Trainer goes down the list of people who've checked in, and asks each person what one of the above abbreviations stands for. If there are more than 18 people participating (19 if you include RRT's), you may add some Q-codes to the game:

Code	used as question	used as answer
QRL	Are you busy?	I am busy. (or I am busy with ...) Please do not interfere.
QRO	Shall I increase power?	Increase power.
QRP	Shall I decrease power?	Decrease power.
QRZ	Who is calling me?	You are being called by ...
QSL	Can you acknowledge receipt?	I am acknowledging receipt.
QSP	Will you relay a message to ...?	I will relay a message to
QTH	What is your position in latitude and longitude (or according to any other indication)?	My position is ...
QTU	At what times are you operating?	I am operating from ... to ... hours.
QTX	Will you keep your station open for further communication with me until further notice (or until ... hours)?	I will keep my station open for further communication with you until further notice (or until ... hours).