



## Oceanside CERT Communication Team SOP During Time of Emergency

### **Basic Guidelines**

In time of near or impending emergency, Oceanside CERT Communication Team members should first follow the general SOP guidelines for all Oceanside CERT members as posted on [www.oceansidecert.org](http://www.oceansidecert.org). Some of those include:

- Have your cell phone nearby for possible notification of an official CERT Activation via telephone;
- Monitor email for possible Activation Statement from CERT Program management;
- Monitor the Oceanside CERT website ([www.oceansidecert.org](http://www.oceansidecert.org)) for possible posting of Activation Statement; &
- Use a battery-operated radio to monitor KOGO AM 600 and KLSD AM 1360 for possible Emergency Alert System message(s).

In addition, you can check the San Diego County Emergency app on your smartphone/electronic device.

### **Additional SOP Guidelines for Communication Team Members**

1. Basic Ham Radio "Go Kit":

Oceanside CERT Communication Team members should have charged batteries, and backup batteries, ready for their Handie-Talkie (HT) Ham radios at all times. A Ham Radio "Go Kit" containing radio, speaker/mic, batteries, battery charger, connectors, pocket rollup antenna, etc. is recommended for 'grab-&-go'. In addition to a spare rechargeable battery pack, an AA battery holder and pack of AA batteries is recommended for your Go Kit for those times when recharging will not be possible.

2. Radio Familiarity:

Know how to change batteries; unlock/lock your HT radio keypad; change from VFO to Memory; change channels; input and save new frequencies; add PL tone (select tone, enable tone, & save tone). Know the Channel number for our CERT repeater frequency and our Primary Simplex frequency. Carry a copy of the Operator Manual for your HT in your Ham radio Go Kit.

3. Monitor Your Ham Radio:

Oceanside CERT Communication Team members should monitor our Oceanside CERT repeater (144.505, + offset, PL 107.2) for announcements, to share info, and for possible start of the CERT Emergency Net.

In case of a repeater problem, Oceanside CERT's Primary Simplex frequency of 145.540 will be used for the Oceanside CERT Emergency Net until the repeater can be utilized. Secondary Simplex freq is 146.580.

If you have a second radio or scanner, other repeaters serving the Oceanside/North County communities can also be monitored, such as the wider-coverage Palomar Mountain repeaters of PARC and ECRA that service North County:

PARC --- [www.palomararc.org](http://www.palomararc.org). Example: 146.730, - offset, PL 107.2;

ECRA --- [www.ecra.org](http://www.ecra.org). Example: 147.030, + offset, PL 103.5.



4. Oceanside CERT Emergency Net:

Upon an official CERT Activation, the CERT Communications Manager will initiate the Oceanside CERT Emergency Net under callsign WF6OCS, designating an appropriate Net Control station location and Net Control Operator.

Should conditions warrant, the Oceanside CERT Emergency Net may be initiated by the CERT Communications Manager in *pre-emergency* situations, without an official CERT Activation (Examples: firewatch, flooding conditions, power blackout, severe traffic problem, etc.).

The CERT Communications Manager is responsible for initiating the Net; the CERT Program Coordinator, followed by the Backup EOC Operator, will initiate the Net should the Communications Manager not be available. If none of the above individuals are available in a time of sufficient urgency, any trained member of the Oceanside CERT Communications Team in Good Standing can, in appropriate circumstances and with exercise of good judgement, initiate the Net and operate as Temporary Net Control.

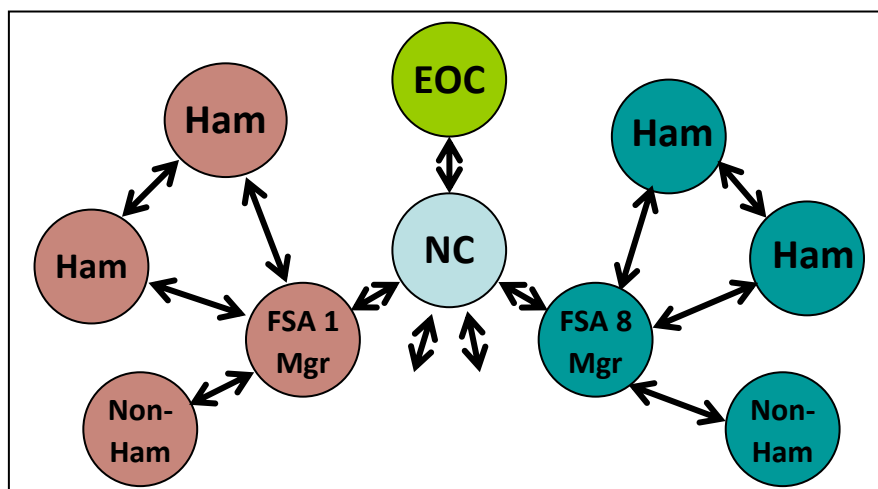
5. Net Protocol:

The CERT Emergency Net is a directed net, and all Communication Team members should communicate through NET Control only. Tactical communication can be taken to our Primary Simplex frequency (145.540), or Secondary Simplex frequency (146.580).

In the ideal model, Net Control will communicate on the repeater with the 8 FSA Managers, who in turn will communicate to other CERT Hams within their individual FSA's on simplex radio frequencies so as to not interfere with the Net on the repeater. In the case of an insufficient number of FSA Managers then Net Control will communicate directly with individual Hams in the FSAs.

FSA Managers have selected FRS Channel 12 to use for non-Ham communications within individual FSAs.

6. EOC: If the EOC is activated, the CERT Communication Manager will ensure that an authorized CERT EOC Radio Operator, or authorized Backup EOC Radio Operator, reports to the EOC as the point of contact for NET Control. Direct communication with the EOC will only take place between Net Control and the EOC Radio Operator; CERT Comm. Team members should communicate only through Net Control.



7. ICS: During a CERT Activation, CERT Communication Team Members should follow the Communication Plan described in the ICS 205 form if it is provided during the Incident.



### **“Things to Remember”**

CERT Member safety is a primary concern during any incident/activation.

Rely on your CERT training...use the Buddy System at all times...and use common sense.

Avoid hazardous situations; wear your Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).

Be sure your green CERT backpack and equipment is always available; carry in your car as appropriate.

‘Write down everything’; log all communication traffic on appropriate CERT form (such as ICS 309). Use black ink. Use 24 hour time notation.

Remember your On-The-Air training: Be concise, speak clearly and slowly. Use phonetics (see below) for clarity. Volunteer for a turn as Net Control during our Weekly Net, it is great practice for real emergencies.

Ham radio is an important means of backup communication, but when phone service is available do not hesitate to call 911 when necessary.

### **Phonetic Alphabet**

A--Alfa	J--Juliet	S--Sierra
B--Bravo	K--Kilo	T--Tango
C--Charlie	L--Lima	U--Uniform
D--Delta	M--Mike	V--Victor
E--Echo	N--November	W--Whiskey
F--Foxtrot	O--Oscar	X--X-ray
G--Golf	P--Papa	Y--Yankee
H--Hotel	Q--Quebec	Z--Zulu
I--India	R--Romeo	