# Kitsap County ACS / RACES
## Kitsap County Alternate Communications System

# Communications Plan

## Purpose of Communications

The mission of the Kitsap County ACS/RACES is to provide backup and supplemental communication support to government and emergency response agencies during emergencies, and to provide public service communications support to public events.

## Types of Communications

There are three categories of communication:

1)  Operator to Operator

    Communication between radio operators are used for network and resource management.

2)  Third party

    In situations where officials need to speak directly with each other, the radio operators may hand the microphones to the officials and let them talk to each other. The radio operator acts as the control operator during this communication.

3)  Relayed Messages

    The more typical situation involves relaying a written message for the official. At the originating station, the message is put into written format. It is then delivered to a station at its destination either directly, or via intermediate relay stations, using one or more of various communications modes or methods.

    A subset of this type of message is the tactical message where the originating station is in a situation, such as driving a car, where they cannot properly write the message. It is the responsibility of the station receiving the message to put it into written format and then to route it to its destination.

## Types of Communications Nets

To facilitate the movement of messages, communications nets are established.  These nets have two forms:

1)  Informal Nets

    There is no net control.  Typically, the volume of radio traffic is light.  Stations can call any other station at any time to relay information and messages.

2)  Directed Nets

    When there are many stations or if radio traffic is heavy, a net control station needs to control and coordinate the activity on the frequency.  A station having a message for another station calls the net control to inform them to whom they need to send traffic, how many pieces of traffic, and the precedence of the traffic.  The net control station then gives the calling station permission to make their contact.

    The net-control station is responsible for managing the use of the frequency to keep order, to prioritize contacts, and facilitate maximum throughput.  The net-control station is also responsible for keeping a log of activity, active stations and their locations, and any other pertinent information to facilitate operations on the frequency.  The net-control station should be separate from the stations at the served agencies' facilities or the incident scene.  An operator should not try to handle messages and act as net control at the same time.

## Types of Communications Stations

1) Fixed

Locations where communications equipment and antennas are permanently installed are fixed stations. Most key facilities will have this equipment. At served agencies facility, the goal is to have the equipment ready to use at all times to minimize time-to-air. When activated, communications need to start immediately.

2) Portable

Locations where communications equipment and antennas are not permanently installed, but instead are brought in and setup in a temporary fashion are considered portable stations. These types of stations are often set up at incident scenes or at locations that do not have a need for permanent equipment. Often the volunteer radio operators bring their personal equipment to setup portable stations.

3) Mobile

Vehicles in which communications equipment is installed, either permanently or temporarily, are considered mobile stations. Often these are the personal vehicles of the volunteers. These stations can be dispatched to any location needing communications support, such as at incident scenes.

## Special-Function Stations

1) Net-Control Stations

To facilitate efficient use of the radio frequency, each frequency should have a net control station. The net control is responsible for tracking all net participants, their locations, and their capabilities. As stations bring traffic to the net, the net control station coordinates the order in which those stations will use the frequency. Net controls should be separate from any message handling station.

2) Liaison Stations

Stations whose responsibility is to relay message between different nets. These stations are in a different location than stations originating and delivering message and concentrate their efforts to moving message between nets to enable the message to reach their destination.

## Nets

For net frequencies see Appendix A — Frequencies used by Kitsap County ARES/RACES/ACS.

1) Kitsap County Emergency Net

   The primary net for Kitsap County is the Kitsap County Emergency Net. Upon initial activation, all stations are to report to this net where information and instructions will be provided. All operations will remain on this net unless the volume of traffic is excessive thus requiring additional nets to handle the volume of message traffic, or the communications needs are localized and more effectively handled on another net.

2) Kitsap County Data Network

   The Kitsap County Data Network is a hub-BBS packet mail system for relaying messages primarily between facilities in Kitsap County. When sending a message, post the message to the BBS. The destination station, or a station that can relay the message towards its destination, then pulls the message off the BBS. The BBS also contains bulletins for all stations to read.

3) Area

   Each operational area and the medical team have the option of establishing local nets to handle messages for their served agencies. Typically, these nets will only be activated when radio traffic levels on the county net are heavy, or the communications needs are localized and more effectively handled on a separate net.

4) Region

   Communication between the Homeland Security Region 2 (a.k.a. District/Region 2) counties -- Clallam, Jefferson, and Kitsap -- are handled on the region net.

5) State

   Communications with the state EOC is handled on the state net.

6) Ad hoc

   Nets established as needed, on any available frequency, are ad hoc nets. These nets are crucial to being flexible, but are not necessarily predictable as to when or where these will be established.

## Message Relaying Hierarchy

Always be prepared to provide message-handling services from anywhere, to anywhere, at any time, under any conditions, realizing that there is normally a chain of command for the served agencies.  The following is the sequence:

1)   Operational Area Messages

Communication occurs within an operational area between the Area Command to facilities and resources in that locality.  If Area Command needs resources from another area, they make a request through the county, who then coordinates resource sharing.

2)   County Messages

The county communicates with each of the Operation Areas to obtain status and resource request to facilitate resource sharing and countywide coordination of the response.
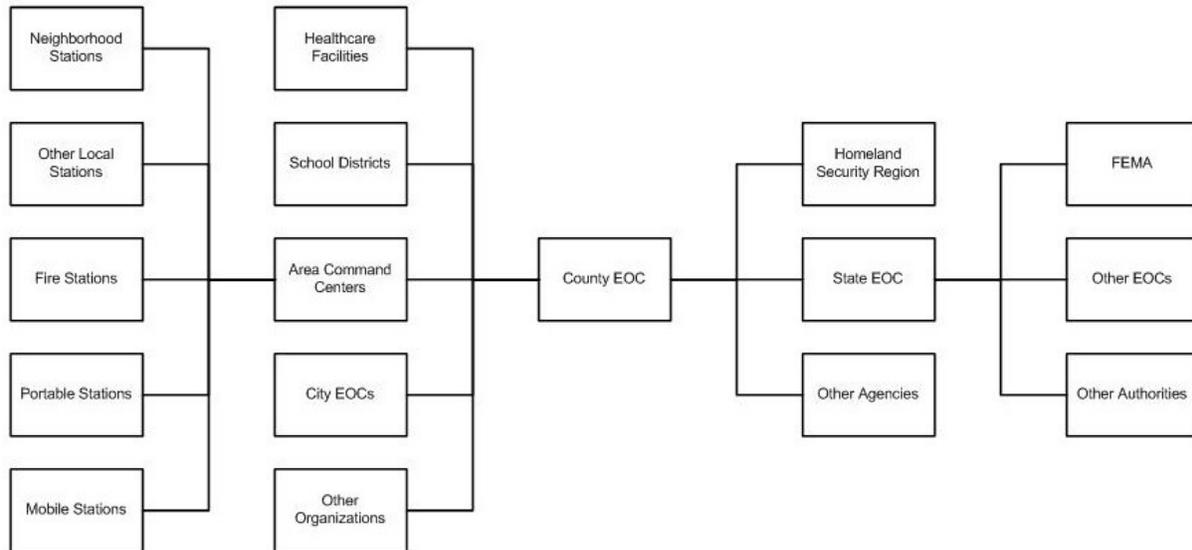
3)   District/Region Messages

The county communicates with the other counties in Homeland Security Region 2 to share status information and resource request to facilitate coordination of the response.

4)   State Messages

The county communicates with the statue to request resources from other counties or from statewide agencies.

**Communications Hierarchy**

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┌──────────────┐      ┌──────────────┐
│ Neighborhood │      │ Healthcare   │
│ Stations     │      │ Facilities   │
└──────────────┘      └──────────────┘

┌──────────────┐      ┌──────────────┐      ┌──────────────┐      ┌──────────────┐
│ Other Local  │      │ School       │      │ Homeland     │      │ FEMA         │
│ Stations     │      │ Districts    │      │ Security     │      │              │
└──────────────┘      └──────────────┘      │ Region       │      └──────────────┘
                                            └──────────────┘
┌──────────────┐      ┌──────────────┐      ┌──────────────┐      ┌──────────────┐
│ Fire Stations│      │ Area Command │      │ County EOC   │──│ State EOC │   │ Other EOCs   │
└──────────────┘      │ Centers      │      └──────────────┘   └──────────┘   └──────────────┘
                      └──────────────┘
┌──────────────┐      ┌──────────────┐                         ┌──────────────┐      ┌──────────────┐
│ Portable     │      │ City EOCs    │                         │ Other        │      │ Other        │
│ Stations     │      │              │                         │ Agencies     │      │ Authorities  │
└──────────────┘      └──────────────┘                         └──────────────┘      └──────────────┘

┌──────────────┐      ┌──────────────┐
│ Mobile       │      │ Other        │
│ Stations     │      │ Organizations│
└──────────────┘      └──────────────┘
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## Communications Modes or Methods

Messages are moved by any method needed to get the message to its destination.  These include, but are not limited to:

1) Radio

2) Data

3) Telephone

4) Cellular Telephone

5) Text Messaging

6) E-mail

7) Hand-carried

# Appendix A — Frequencies used by Kitsap County ARES/RACES/ACS

## Kitsap County Emergency Net —  Countywide

This is the primary frequency for relaying messages and coordinating activities in Kitsap County:

145.430 MHz FM repeater (-600 kHz split, tone 179.9 Hz)

If repeater fails, operations continue on 145.43 MHz FM

simplex. Additional countywide frequencies:

445.825 MHz FM simplex

28.330 MHz USB simplex

52.430 MHz FM simplex

Kitsap County Data Network

145.630 MHz

223.580 MHz

Kitsap County EOC Packet BBS KCBBS (KD7WDG-4) accessible on these frequencies:

145.630 MHz

223.580 MHz

Kitsap County EOC Gateway KCEOC (KD7WDG-7) gateways between these frequencies:

145.630 MHz

223.580 MHz

## Kitsap County Area Net

Simplex frequencies for Operational Areas and Medical Team

| | |
|---|---|
| South Kitsap County | 147.460 MHz FM simplex |
| City of Bremerton | 147.480 MHz FM simplex |
| Central Kitsap County | 147.500 MHz FM simplex |
| North Kitsap County | 147.520 MHz FM simplex |
| City of Bainbridge Island | 147.540 MHz FM simplex |
| Kitsap Medical Team | 147.560 MHz FM simplex |

Additional Operational Area and Medical Team frequencies:

| | |
|---|---|
| South Kitsap County | 445.850 MHz FM simplex |
| City of Bremerton | 445.875 MHz FM simplex |
| Central Kitsap County | 445.900 MHz FM simplex |
| North Kitsap County | 445.925 MHz FM simplex |
| City of Bainbridge Island | 445.950 MHz FM simplex |
| Kitsap Medical Team | 445.975 MHz FM simplex |

## District/Region 2

53.370 MHz repeater (offset -1.7 MHz, tone 100.0 Hz)
located on Blyn Mountain southwest of Port Townsend

## Washington State Emergency Net -- Statewide

Primary:  3.985 MHz LSB

Alternate:  7.245 MHz LSB