

# Stake Communication Protocol: edit Nov 2024

## Goals of communication during an emergency event:

- To gather important information to facilitate relief efforts in a timely manner.
- The Stake goal is to have the following information to the Stake President within **3 hours** of the event so relief efforts can be started.
  - Condition and status of the stake members. The individual wards collect this by their district captains.
  - Condition, status and location of the full time missionaries. The individual wards collect this by their district captains.
  - Condition and status of each building.
  - Community infrastructure
  - Anticipated needs

## Modes of communication:

There are several ways the ward can communicate in an emergency depending on how the emergency affected the infrastructure locally.

- **Cell Phone** : this is the simplest and most efficient if functioning. The EQP, RSP and Bishopric should have a texting tree set up to be able to contact each other and the captains mentioned above. Captains should have their families in their company also on a texting tree. This should be periodically checked through a practice exercise.
- **Email or social media**: This is the standard communication that can be continued if internet or phone data is available. Stake and ward websites may post announcements and instructions.
- **Radio**: In serious widespread disasters, cell tower bandwidth is commonly overwhelmed or the cell network is completely out of commission. Radio communication may be the only remote mode of communication.
  - FRS radios: (family mobile radio service) are two way radios (walkie-talkies) that have a range 1-3 miles and do not require a license. These radios cannot use a repeater and are limited to a small geographic area like a small ward.
  - GMRS radios (general mobile radio service): Have a larger range of 2-3 miles and can access a repeater that will retransmit your radio up to a 20-60 mile radius. These radios do need a FCC license, \$35 for 10 years for all your family. Here is a link on how to obtain a license.

[https://www.ruggedradios.com/blogs/news/how-to-get-your-gmrs-license?gad=1&gclid=Cj0KCQjw-pyqBhDmARIsAKd9XIMc0k2bVOO3VZBbRARt-V8aeHFV656C3B0lvYkmcRwo28HF1ctSRQQaAuQ5EALw\\_wcB](https://www.ruggedradios.com/blogs/news/how-to-get-your-gmrs-license?gad=1&gclid=Cj0KCQjw-pyqBhDmARIsAKd9XIMc0k2bVOO3VZBbRARt-V8aeHFV656C3B0lvYkmcRwo28HF1ctSRQQaAuQ5EALw_wcB)

- Ham radio: Will have the best range depending on type of radio, frequencies used, and antennas. Repeater stations and specialized frequencies operated by higher licensed operators can allow communication throughout the stake, region, area, and even Salt Lake City. Area, regional, and stake wide communications between area authorities, regional authorities, and stake leadership may need to use these frequencies and or repeaters with the help of ham operators. A ham radio license requires passing tests and paying a \$35 fee every 10 years.
- **Person to Person:** In some cases the captains in each ward may need to visit each person in their districts to find the status and condition of members, missionaries and buildings. This information can then be communicated by radio and or in person to leaders for disaster relief.
- GMRS repeater capable radio online.



New QR code

## **Protocol and process of gathering information and communication. Gather information and report within 3 hours.**

- Each ward gathers information about the status and condition of the members, church buildings, and general conditions.
- Each ward will divide it's boundaries into districts with a ward member assigned as a captain to each district.

- Each captain finds out the condition and status of the members, and the church buildings in their assigned district that they live in.
- Gathering the above information can be done by the above modes of communication. Cell phones are generally non-operational. Person to person contact and GMRS radio communication may be the only modes of communication.
- Captains will report the above information to the Ward Communications Specialist. The simplest method to achieve this with minimal disruption is by ward GMRS radio net.
- The Ward Communications Specialist will communicate the information to the Stake Communications Specialist, again by the stake GMRS repeater net if needed.
- The Ward Communications Specialist will communicate the information to the Ward Council to begin facilitating relief efforts. Again by the GMRS ward net if needed.
- The Stake Communications Specialist will compile and communicate the stake information to the Stake Presidency. Again by the Stake GMRS repeater net if needed.
- The Stake President then can then communicate the information to regional authorities, area authorities, or Salt Lake City for regional or general church relief efforts as needed. This can be done by ham radio repeaters, or by high frequency with the help of ham radio operators.
- For the full-time missionaries, if they have GMRS programmable radios, they will self-report. If they do not have radios, the ward missionary leaders will find out their condition and location and report that to the ward communication specialist.

## • **Stake and Ward GMRS/Ham channel and frequency assignments:**

### **GMRS**

Stake GMRS repeater	Rpt 17 (Rpt3) CTCSS 103.5 (#13)	462.6000 (Tx 467.6000)
Prosser GMRS repeater	Rpt 22 (Rpt8) CTCSS 67.0 (#1)	462.7250 (Tx 467.7250)
Candy Mountain	Ch 15 CTCSS 67.0 (#1)	462.5500

Desert Hills	Ch 16	CTCSS 74.4 (#3)	462.5750
Lakes	Ch 17	CTCSS 79.7 (#5)	462.6000
Highlands	Ch 18	CTCSS 85.4 (#7)	462.6250
Paradise	Ch 19	CTCSS 91.5 (#9)	462.6500
Benton City	Ch 20	CTCSS 97.4 (#11)	462.6750
Sunrise Ridge	Ch 21	CTCSS 103.5 (#13)	462.7000
Prosser	Ch 22	CTCSS 110.9 (#15)	462.7250
Rattlesnake	Ch 15	CTCSS 118.8 (#17)	462.5500
Rio De Yakima	Ch 16	CTCSS 127.3 (#19)	462.5750

### **Ham radio**

- Regional 2 meter net: Kennewick Coordinating Council (KCC)
  - Johnson Butte WA7AZ. 146.6400(-0.6) Rx, Tx 146.040  
CTCSS: 100.0
  - KCC regional net each Sunday 630pm
- High Frequency net: requires general or extra license
  - Primary: 3.815 LSB  
Secondary: 7.185 LSB  
Church Headquarters ERC  
JS8-Call 7.078 USB  
7.272 LSB

### **Practice Nets: done weekly**

- Practice nets are a way for members and church leaders to familiarize themselves with their radio equipment and test propagation coverage. Regularly scheduled nets set in place the communication channels and make the communication protocol automatic in the case of an emergency event.
- Elder Carlton has asked that we hold ward nets and stake nets weekly.
- A net is conducted by a net controller that will direct the transmission of each participating operator in turn so as not to have interference.

- **Ward nets weekly** (or subnets) should be held on the GMRS channel assigned and can be conducted by anyone in the ward. This should include the **Ward Communications Specialist, Full-time Missionaries, Ward Council members, and the ward members at large. Individuals that are not members of the Church** are also welcome to participate. Each ward will choose the day and time to hold their weekly subnets. The Ward Communications Specialist will report to the Stake Communication specialist how many people checked in and the number of Ward Council members that checked in.
- **Stake repeater GMRS net weekly** will be held each Saturday at 8 pm once the repeater is installed permanently on Chander Butte. **All stake members** are welcome to check in by ward when asked by the net controller. **Stake council members, and any non-members** will also be asked to check in. The Stake Communications Specialist will report the total number of ward and stake check-ins to John F Mitchell KD7FAU, the Regional Communications Specialist—who will then report our region (KCC) to Elder David Carlton.
- **Example of Preamble for a GMRS net:**
  - This is (first name and call sign) conducting a GMRS net on channel \_\_\_\_ for the \_\_\_\_\_ Ward for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. The purpose of this net is to allow operators to familiarize themselves with their radio equipment and test propagation coverage. As net controller, I will first call on the Bishopric, then Ward Council, then full-time missionaries, then all members to sign in, followed by anyone else that would like to sign in.
  - At the conclusion of the net, return the channel to normal operations.
- Families may also hold nets for the same reasons identified above.
- Because stake, ward and family nets are using public non-private radio frequencies, private information like last names, location or other identifiers should be avoided.

