

Emergency Communications Plan

Individuals:

In the event of emergency, priorities are important. Making sure that you and your family are safe comes first. Once your family is safe make sure your home is safe, then start checking on neighbors paying special attention to the elderly and those with special needs.

If you discover that there are needs, they may be taken care of by yourself or neighbors. In the event that further assistance is needed a call to emergency or professional services would be in order.

Note: Fire/rescue, ambulance, law enforcement will be limited. In a widespread situation we may be our own rescuers until additional help arrives. Depending on severity, that could be hours, days or weeks away.

If an event is widespread then information will need to be compiled and reported. Responses will be coordinated at a local level by local Emergency Management Services.

Designated Zone Leaders:

Reporting should be done through established leadership. Each Zone Emergency Communications Specialist, (ZECS) should be used to coordinate those communications.

If phone communications are down then handheld radios/walkie talkies, FRS/GMRS or HAM radios should be used.

Depending on distance and ability communication relays may be necessary.

If you report an incident or problem make sure you have the needed information. Rescue, medical concerns and personal safety situations will get priority.

Be ready to report **who** is involved, **what** the problem is and **what** is needed to resolve it. **When** does the incident need to be resolved and **Why**? Finally, be able to give a location by address of **Where** the problem exists.

If resources are stretched, it is important to report again if a situation is resolved, so that resources can be appropriately dispatched.

ZECS-Zone Emergency Communications Specialists:

Volunteer Zone Emergency Communications Specialists should have access to FRS/GMRS and HAM, (Amateur) radios.

For HAM operators, the Local HAM Club Repeater will be the primary frequency **448.950 – tone 77.0HZ**.

The secondary frequency will be **146.540 Simplex**.

FRS/GMRS Channels will be as follows:

NOTE: No sub channels! For example, Zone Communications Coordinator is channel 15.0 not 15.3 or any sub channel.

Refer to County Emergency Zone Map to determine your Zone This map can be accessed at Oneidaid.us under “Departments / Emergency Services”

Zone Communication Coordinator will be **channel 15**

Zone 1 **channel 1**

Zone 2 **channel 2**

Zone 3 **channel 3**

Zone 4 **channel 4**

Zone 5 **channel 5**

Zone 6 **channel 6**

Zone 7 **channel 7**

Zone 18 **channel 18**

Zone 19 **channel 19**

Zone 20 **channel 20**, but then will need to communicate with the Zone Communication Coordinator via Ham radio or by messenger. There is a ham radio at the county shed in Holbrook. The repeater should be used first or simplex if the repeater is down.

Currently unassigned channels:

Ch 16

Ch 17

Ch 22

These Radio Nets are available to all families in our community. Know who your ZECS or Emergency Communications Contact Person is and what Channel to use to report on for the zone you reside in.

**** If Families wish to use radios for general communications during an emergency, please use channels 8 through 14, 16, 17, 22, as they are not assigned to specific zones.**

ZECS should gather all incoming information on their assigned channel and then report to the Zone Communication Coordinator on **channel 15** to report their situation and needs to the County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) After the report is made updates need to be given especially if a situation is resolved.

FRS/GMRS radios are limited by distance and terrain, so if you hear someone calling for assistance and they are not getting a response, please go ahead and respond, and then assist in relaying their message to the intended recipient.

There is a weekly HAM radio “NET” held every Sunday night at 8:00pm. This is hosted by the local Amateur Radio Club (RACOON: Radio Amateur Club Of Oneida Neighbors), usually on repeater frequency 448.950mhz, and once per quarter on Simplex 146.540mhz. Any ham operator is welcome to check in. Visitors are always welcome.

There is also a weekly **Zone Net** on FRS/GMRS radios to create awareness of communication abilities if phones fail. **Zone Radio Net checks will be conducted at 7:00 pm each Sunday evening. Each Zone should use their assigned frequencies/channel to not interfere with communications in other zones. ZECS should use the Radio Net Protocol for conducting this Sunday evening radio exercise.**

ZECS should share their results with the Zone Communication Coordinator so that they can identify any existing dead or weak areas of reception and encourage more families to participate, which may be necessary to assist in relaying messages from one to another.

Zone Emergency Communication Specialists will report participation on Sunday evenings at 7:15 pm. on FRS/GMRS channel 15.

In each case, these nets will help familiarize individuals with their radio equipment, abilities and limitations of their FRS/GMRS radios. It would be great practice and provide realistic expectations of how to communicate in an emergency when conventional communication fails.

Please be aware that government assistance will be assigned by priority. Our community will, most likely, be low on the priority list.

FEMA will help to restore infrastructure. They do not assist the individual.

Community leaders should make logs of all recovery efforts. Volunteers, hours, all efforts to restore and repair damages need to be recorded. This information is used to reimburse local entities for efforts.

This is a work in progress. Weekly Sunday night Radio Nets may be needed at first and then as we get it done and are comfortable with the results, we can then consider less frequent net checks. **Keep those radios charged and ready to go!**

Please work within your assigned zones to also include:

- Zone texting (identify which phone number people need to report to?)
- Zone email list (this may be one master list or broken down into district or zones)
- Know who is participating in radio nets and who may be a relay contact point for you in reaching out to those beyond your radio voice.
- Continue efforts to invite a growing number of participants as time goes on.