



HLARC ARES® Alert Levels

Introduction. The Highland Lakes Amateur Radio Emergency Services (HLARC ARES) unit uses the following terms for alert levels. These levels apply to natural and man-made threats.. The paragraphs below outline suggested responses at the various alert levels. Safety is the prime consideration.

Condition 4

- Increased Situational Awareness
 - Examples include a hazardous weather outlook report from the National Weather Service covering all or part of Burnet and Llano Counties. Another example would be notification from a served agency that an exercise is scheduled.
 - Actions may include securing your home and family, checking jump kit condition, charging batteries, fueling vehicles, and listening to NOAA weather radio and the local repeater (146.660 MHz, 88.5 Hz tone).

Condition 3

- Initiate informal net on repeater
 - Examples include a hazardous weather Watch from the NWS covering all or part of Burnet and Llano Counties. Another example would be a request from a served agency to go to a stand-by status as preparation for supporting a communications need.
 - Actions may include securing your home and family by checking food, water, and medical supplies, and reviewing the family emergency plan. Then checking in on the repeater as a communication check, and depending upon your license class and equipment, listening to the appropriate HF frequency, *e.g.*, 3.873 MHz for the Texas State ARES net. At this stage no Net Control Station (NCS) needs to be active. Review the ARES Emergency Plan, county maps, NCS and SkyWarn net forms and ICS 213 message traffic and ARRL message forms.

Condition 2

- Initiate Formal Net on Repeater
 - Examples include a hazardous weather Warning from the NWS covering all or part of Burnet and Llano Counties. Another example is a request for communications support from a served agency.
 - Actions may include safely dispatching SkyWarn weather spotters and radio requests for reports from all stations for reportable weather events (winds, hail excessive rain, flooding, wall cloud, funnel cloud: see SkyWarn net form for details). Safety should be the primary concern. Stations should not operate under unsafe conditions including lightning and driving on flooded roads. The NCS position should be safely activated by the first available station and notification to the NWS and Burnet Sheriff's office should be initiated using telephone numbers on the SkyWarn NCS form. The NCS role can be passed to others as conditions warrant. It may be necessary to initiate call-up using the telephone tree. The NCS should designate another station to initiate the call up sequence so the NCS will not be disrupted.

If the event is activation by a served agency, the standard NCS net form should be used as appropriate.

Condition 1

- Continue formal net and as appropriate, notify surrounding area ARES EC's, district EC, Section EC and served agencies.