

CERT Team Meeting Minutes - August 26, 2024



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Thank you, and I look forward to your feedback on this month's newsletter.

[See the Newsletter Archive](#)

Members in Attendance

- Paul Buhrmester
- Robert "Bob" Govero
- David Guinn
- Marcella Harris
- William "Bill" Hughes
- Sam Miller
- Danielle Pool
- Darren Smith
- Bryan Styer
- William Warhurst
- David Yarbrough
- Debbie Yarbrough
- Robert White

Coming Up

Munford Celebrate - there's a need to schedule volunteers for this day. Under the leadership of Doug Justice, we have the booth to conduct the promotion the team wants to do. A strong showing by our team is essential to ensure our goals are fulfilled.

Upcoming Training:

The training schedule is always at the Constable website > CERT > Calendar:

CERT Traffic/Crowd Control Management

Mon, September 23rd, 6:30pm – 9:00pm

[See the CERT Calendar](#)

Business Meeting

The team held a brief discussion of the following topics:

- Formalization of the CERT Program Structure for the West Tennessee Team:
 - Election of CERT program officers - President, Vice President, and Secretary. We need to start thinking in terms of an organizational structure, with a set of bylaws that determine policies in how we operate.
 - Doug Justice shared prior to the meeting that CERT programs are required to have government sponsorship. Our CERT program is sponsored by the Tipton County Constable's Office. This is a new requirement.
 - Being sponsored by an elected official poses some different expectations:
 - CERT Communications outside the team represents the Constables and must be approved prior to distribution. This does not apply to our private Facebook group.
 - Financing and spending may require compliance with rules that come from outside of the team. This is particularly true of grant funding. This does not apply to the club's fundraising efforts.
- Brian Styer is looking into providing a CPR class for team members.
- Brian Styer reminded us of the value of CERT as it applies to starting with your own neighborhood.
- Danielle Pool briefly discussed the benefits of a mounted patrol.
- Darren Smith briefly discussed the benefits of a drone program & training.
- Darren Smith discussed the process of registering the CERT team with the FEMA and State of Tennessee. This was completed 08/26/2024.
- A review of the team website, how to view past newsletters, the team calendar, manuals & links. Please review or join:

- [The team's Facebook group](#)
- The team's website: <https://www.tiptonconstables.org/cert>
- [The Constable's Facebook page](#)
- The Constable's website: <https://www.tiptonconstables.org/>
- Feedback was sought on the email newsletters, meeting reminders, and meeting minutes. You can find archive copies of these email notices on the CERT program website: <https://www.tiptonconstables.org/newsletter>
- Robert Govero presented two certificates from the FEMA independent study website: IS 315A and IS 317A. This is something all team members should do. Training is like money in the bank of disaster preparedness. Please take the self study classes listed at this page: <https://www.tiptonconstables.org/cert-manuals>
- Debbie Yarbrough discussed what it takes to get an Amateur Radio License. These helpful resources were discussed:
 - [ARRL Ham Radio License Manual 5th Edition](#)
 - <https://hamradioprep.com/technician-license-course/>
 - [Ham Radio Crash Course](#)

Stay Informed & Get Connected

For the latest updates on community safety, crime prevention tips, and local events, we encourage you to visit the Tipton Constables Facebook page. Stay informed about the efforts of our dedicated law enforcement officers as they work tirelessly to keep our community safe. By following the page, you'll gain access to valuable information, timely alerts, and opportunities to engage with your local constables. Join the Tipton Constables Facebook community today and be an active participant in fostering a safer, more connected neighborhood. Your involvement makes a difference!

[Constable's Blog](#)

[CERT Team Website](#)

Communications After a Natural Disaster

Natural disasters such as tornados, earthquakes, floods, and wildfires can devastate communities, leaving behind a trail of destruction that takes years to recover from. While the immediate impact is often catastrophic, the long-term problems that a community faces in the aftermath can be equally challenging. In today's training session, we discussed the communications challenges after a disaster.

Disasters often knock out cellular networks and internet services, making it difficult for people to communicate with loved ones and for authorities to coordinate emergency responses. The loss of communication infrastructure can lead to confusion, delays in relief efforts, and a lack of information about the extent of the damage. This was true in Tipton County during the tornado

of early 2023. An AT&T fiber was cut along the storm path and Highway 51 which took out part of the county's radio system and cellular networks.

Challenges:

- **Infrastructure Damage:** Cell towers, power lines, and internet cables are often damaged, leading to outages.
- **Overloaded Networks:** Even if infrastructure is intact, networks may become overwhelmed by the sudden surge in usage.
- **Power Outages:** Extended power losses can incapacitate communication devices and systems, further complicating communication efforts.

Solutions:

Backup Communication Systems: Utilizing alternative methods like satellite phones, ham radios, and two-way radios becomes essential. These systems are less reliant on local infrastructure and can operate independently of the grid, making them invaluable for emergency communication.

Emergency Broadcasts: AM/FM radios, NOAA weather radios, and shortwave radios provide vital information from government agencies about the disaster, including safety instructions, updates, and resource locations. These broadcasts are often the most reliable sources of information when other systems fail.

Community Coordination: Pre-established communication plans, including the use of local radio frequencies and designated meeting points, can help communities coordinate effectively even when conventional communication methods are unavailable. Training community members in the use of these systems and conducting regular drills can significantly enhance preparedness.

Power Resilience: Ensuring that communication devices are equipped with backup power sources, such as batteries, generators, or solar chargers, is essential. This ensures that devices remain operational even when the power grid is down.

Information Management: In the aftermath of a disaster, managing the flow of information becomes critical. Establishing a centralized communication hub where information is collected, verified, and disseminated can help reduce confusion and ensure that accurate, timely information reaches those who need it.

Closing Thoughts

Effective communication after a natural disaster is a complex challenge that requires careful planning, the use of multiple technologies, and community collaboration. By preparing in advance and utilizing a layered communication strategy, communities can improve their resilience, ensuring that they can stay connected and coordinate their response even in the most difficult circumstances.

Let's Connect...

[Constable's Facebook Page](#)

[CERT Facebook Page](#)

The Layered Approach to Emergency Communications

In the face of a disaster, maintaining reliable communication is crucial for ensuring safety, coordinating rescue efforts, and managing resources. A layered approach to emergency communications provides a robust framework to ensure that, even if one method fails, others can continue to function. This approach involves integrating multiple communication methods and technologies, each serving a different purpose, to create a resilient and flexible system.

Layer 1: Primary Communication Channels

The first layer in the approach is the use of primary communication channels such as cellular networks and the internet. These systems are typically the most convenient and widely used in everyday life. They allow for quick communication through calls, texts, and emails, as well as access to real-time information through social media and news websites. However, these systems are highly dependent on infrastructure that can be easily damaged or overloaded during a disaster.

Why It's Important: Primary channels are familiar and easy to use, making them the first line of communication in an emergency. They are essential for initial alerts, coordinating immediate responses, and accessing critical information.

Layer 2: Secondary Communication Systems

When primary systems fail or become unreliable, secondary communication systems come into play. These include landline phones, two-way radios (such as FRS, GMRS, and CB radios), and satellite phones. Two-way radios are particularly valuable for short-range communication, such as coordinating within a neighborhood or between emergency response teams. Satellite phones, on the other hand, are crucial for long-distance communication when local infrastructure is down.

Why It's Important: Secondary systems provide a backup when primary systems are compromised. They ensure that communication can continue in the absence of cellular or internet services, which is especially important in the immediate aftermath of a disaster.

Layer 3: Emergency Broadcasts and Monitoring

This layer involves the use of AM/FM radios, NOAA weather radios, and shortwave radios to monitor emergency broadcasts and receive critical updates from government agencies. These broadcasts can provide essential

information about the disaster, such as evacuation orders, shelter locations, and updates on the status of the crisis. Shortwave radios are also useful for receiving international broadcasts if local stations are offline.

Why It's Important: Emergency broadcasts provide reliable, official information during a disaster. Monitoring these channels helps individuals stay informed about the situation and make informed decisions about their safety.

Layer 4: Advanced Communication Systems

For more experienced communicators, advanced systems like ham radios (amateur radio) and high-frequency (HF) radios offer long-range communication capabilities. These systems are invaluable for connecting with distant locations, coordinating with regional emergency networks, and even communicating with international stations if needed. Ham radio operators often play a key role in disaster response by relaying information when other systems are down.

Why It's Important: Advanced systems allow for long-range communication and can connect isolated areas with the outside world. They are particularly useful for coordinating large-scale disaster responses and ensuring that help can be directed to where it is needed most.

Layer 5: Redundant and Backup Systems

The final layer involves redundant and backup systems that ensure communication can continue even if all other layers fail. This might include having pre-established meeting points, written emergency plans, or using signal methods like whistles or flares. In addition, having multiple power sources, such as batteries, generators, or solar chargers, ensures that communication devices can remain operational.

Why It's Important: Redundant systems provide the ultimate safety net in a disaster. They ensure that even in the most extreme circumstances, some form of communication can be maintained.

Final Thoughts

A layered approach to emergency communications is essential for ensuring that communication remains possible in the chaotic and unpredictable aftermath of a disaster. By integrating multiple methods and technologies, each with its strengths and weaknesses, communities can build a robust communication network that can withstand the challenges of a disaster. This approach not only enhances individual and community safety but also improves the overall effectiveness of disaster response efforts.

Amateur Radio Emergency Service-Memphis

Receive Frequency

Organization/Location

1. 146.745- pl 88.5 Dyersburg, TN
2. 145.130- pl 107.2 Piperton, TN/Piperton FD
3. 145.190- pl 100.0 Eaton, TN/Gibson County
4. 145.210- pl 107.2 LeBonheur Hosp midtown/MARA
5. 145.230- pl 100.0 Ripley, TN
6. 145.250- pl 107.2 Hickory Withe/N4ER
7. 145.270- pl 107.2 Horn Lake, MS/N5NGB
8. 145.350- pl 107.2 Baptist Desoto/Southaven, MS
9. 145.370- pl 107.2 Hernando east/N5PYQ
10. 145.390- pl 100.0 Helena, AR
11. 145.410- pl 107.2 Collierville, TN/FedEx ARC
12. 145.430- pl 107.2 (linked to 442.425) Brownsville, TN
13. 145.450- pl 107.2 1st TN Downtown/T-S Node 41613
14. 145.490- pl 100.0 Brighton, TN/Tipton ARC
15. 146.42 Simplex/Fayette County ARES
16. 146.46 Simplex/MedMERS Primary
17. 146.47 Simplex/OBARC
18. 146.48 Simplex/Delta Club Special Events
19. 146.505 Simplex/MedMERS 2ndary
20. 146.52 National Simplex Freq/ARES 3rd Backup
21. 146.535 Simplex/Bullfrog Net
22. 146.550 Simplex/District 1 ARES DEC
23. 146.625- pl 107.2 ARES 2nd Delta Germantown, TN
24. 146.670- pl 107.2 Blytheville, AR
25. 146.700- pl 100.0 Union City, TN
26. 146.730- pl 107.2 Whitehaven WA4ADT
27. 146.760- pl 100.0 Forest City, AR
28. 146.775- pl 107.2 WTEMA/Jackson, TN
29. 146.820- pl 107.2 MedMERS 1st/Skywarn/Delta/Brunswick
30. 146.850- pl 107.2 link to 146.94 & 444.775 ARES 1st T-S/I240&Poplar
31. 146.880- pl 107.2 T-S/I240&Poplar
32. 146.910- pl 107.2 Hernando, MS/CARA
33. 146.940- pl 107.2 link to 146.85&444.775 Oakland/T-S/Fayette ARES
34. 146.970- pl 100.0 Medina, TN (Jackson)
35. 147.030+ pl 107.2 linked to 443.250 WKNO Tower/MARA
36. 147.060+ DSTAR W4LET/WA4MQQ
37. 147.090+ pl 107.2 Millington/W4GMM
38. 147.150+ pl 107.2 Crawfordsville, AR/CARO Node# 58251
39. 147.180+ Off the Air
40. 147.210+ pl 107.2 Jackson, TN/WTARS
41. 147.225+ pl 107.2 Off the Air-Holly Springs, MS/CARA
42. 147.255+ pl 79.7 Wires-X linked to 444.700 Olive Branch, MS/OBARC
43. 147.285+ pl 203.5 Corinth, MS
44. 147.300+ pl 107.2 Brunswick/N4GMT Portable
45. 147.330+ pl 100.0 Bloomfield, MO/Mo HP
46. 147.330+ pl 107.2 Oxford, MS/Ole Miss
47. 147.360+ pl 107.2 MedMERS 2dary/ Meth.No.
48. 147.375+ pl 107.2 Wynne, AR
49. 147.420 Red Cross Simplex
50. 442.150+ pl 107.2 Crawfordsville AR/N5ALN Node#58252
51. 442.175+ pl 107.2 Millington/W4GMM
52. 442.400+ pl 107.2 West Memphis AR/CARO
53. 442.750+ pl 107.2 Mile 35 on I-40/N4GMT
54. 442.775+ pl 107.2 Brunswick/N4GMT
55. 443.100+ pl 107.2 Off the Air-Cordova/W4RSG 2
56. 443.125+ pl 107.2 Collierville/W4RSG 4 private
57. 443.200+ pl 107.2 U of M / Delta
58. 443.250+ pl 107.2 WKNO Tower/MARA
59. 443.300+ pl 107.2 Collierville/KA7UEC
60. 443.700+ pl 107.2 MedMERS 2nd Delta/Brunswick TN
61. 443.950+ pl 146.2 Shelby Farms/EMA-N4ER
62. 444.100+ pl 107.2 MedMERS 1st/W4RSG 1 private
63. 444.125+ pl 107.2 Collierville/Collierville PD
64. 444.175+ pl 107.2 LeBonheur Hosp midtown/MARA
65. 444.300+ pl 107.2 Tunica, MS/CARA
66. 444.375+ DSTAR W4LET
67. 444.400+ pl 107.2 Fusion/Wires-X T-S/I240&Poplar Node 51159
68. 444.475+ pl 100.0 Dyersburg, TN
69. 444.525+ pl 107.2 Brownsville, TN
70. 444.700+ pl 107.2 Wires-X linked to 147.255 Lewisburg, MS/ OBARC
71. 444.775+ pl 107.2 linked to 146.85 & 146.94 Midtown/T-S Node 41615
72. 444.875+ pl 131.8 WTARS Node-Jackson, TN
73. 445.950 Simplex/MedMERS 1st
74. 446.000 National Simplex Frequency
75. 446.150 Simplex/MedMERS 2nd
76. 444.950 pl 107.2 Hughes AR/N5ALN Node#46060

Area Frequency List

Info as of 6/14/24

81. 224.120- 1.6MHz Brunswick/N4GMT
82. 224.420- 1.6MHz Methodist No./Delta/W4BS
83. 223.500 National Simplex Frequency
84. 224.780- 1.6MHz I-240&Poplar/ T-S/WB4KOG
85. 224.240- pl 131.8 KA4BNI/Jackson, TN
86. 52.450+1MHz LeBonheur/MARA
87. 53.010-1MHz I-240&Poplar/Tri-State/WB4KOG
88. 53.450-1MHz WKNO Tower/ MARA
89. 927.6125-25MHz pl 146.2 WKNO Tower /MARA

RECEIVE ONLY

91. 155.205 Ambulance to Ambulance or Base
92. 155.280 RMC or Hospital to Hospital
93. 155.340 Ambulance to Hospital
94. 463.150 Hospital Wing Helicopter
95. 156.800 Marine Channel 16
96. 157.100 Marine Channel 22A
99. 162.475 National Weather Service-Memphis

APRS 144.390 MHz

Packet 145.590 MHz 1200 Baud

Winlink Frequency

- 145.710 MHz N4GMT/Brunswick, TN
441.025 MHz N4GMT/Brunswick, TN

Frequency / Organization/Location

HF/ GENERAL & Above LICENSE REQUIRED

Night Time	Day Time
HF 3810 kHz CUSEC	7180 kHz CUSEC (as needed)
HF 3980 kHz TN Phone	7238 kHz TN Phone
HF 3965 kHz AL Phone	7243 kHz AL Phone
HF 3862 kHz MS Phone	7238 kHz MS Phone
HF 3987.5kHz AR Phone	7260 kHz AR Phone
HF 3963 kHz MO Phone	7263 kHz MO Phone
HF 3890 kHz Delta Div	7243 kHz Delta Div Emergency Net
HF 3850 kHz Region 5 H&W	7280 kHz Region 5 H&W

INTERNATIONAL PHONETIC ALPHABET

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

ARRL COMMUNICATIONS PROCEDURES

Over	Used at the end of any transmission when only the specific station contacted is invited to answer.
Standby / wait Roger	A temporary interruption of the contact. Indicates a transmission has been received correctly and in full.
Clear	End of contact after identification.
Leaving the air	Indicate that a station is going off the air, and will not listen for any further calls. Sent after the final identification.

AGENCY/STATION DESIGNATORS

A = Health Dept	X = VA Hospital
B = Medcom/ Regional One	Y = _____
C = Hospital Wing	ZA = Red Cross Mid-South
D = Baptist Memphis	ZB = Midsouth Regional Blood Ctr
E = Baptist Collierville	ZC = _____
F = Baptist Desoto	AA = AMR Ambulance
G = Baptist Women's	AB = Bartlett EMS
H = Baptist Rehab-G'town	AC = Crittenden County EMS
I = Baptist Tipton	AD = Desoto County Medical Serv
J = Delta Medical	AE = EMHC Ambulance
K = Lakeside Behavioral Health	AF = Fayette County EMS
L = Lauderdale Community Hosp.	AG = First Call Ambulance
M = Baptist Pediatric	AH = Germantown EMS
N = Methodist Germantown	AI = HCT Ambulance
O = Methodist LeBonheur	AJ = Hernando EMS
P = Methodist North	AK = Lauderdale EMS
Q = Methodist Olive Branch	AL = Lifeline Ambulance
R = Methodist South	AM = Marion EMS
S = Methodist University	AN = Medic One Ambulance
T = Memphis Mental Health	AO = Rural Metro Ambulance
U = St. Francis Park	AP = Southaven EMS
V = St. Francis Bartlett	AQ = West Memphis EMS
W = St. Jude Research	AR = Other _____