

FLFD Standard Operational Guideline Auxiliary Communications Activation

[8/6/2019 draft]

BACKGROUND

Emergencies or other occasions may arise wherein Forest Lakes Fire District (FLFD) communications infrastructure and personnel are insufficient to meet current operational needs. This document shall provide the standard operational guidelines for FLFD activation of Auxiliary Communications (AuxComm).

ACTIVATION

1. FLFD activation of the amateur radio community for auxiliary communications shall be by the Fire Chief or his/her designee. This authority applies for deactivation as well.
2. Activation is at FLFD discretion and may occur whenever auxiliary communications are required. Activation may also be for the purpose of communications training and exercise.
3. The amateur radio community may receive other emergency communications activations via their own Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES), the Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES), or the National Weather Service (SKYWARN).
 - a. ARES is activated by designated radio amateurs (hams) before, during and after an emergency. Generally, ARES handles all emergency messages, including those between government emergency management officials.
 - b. RACES, on the other hand, is activated by a government agency. Operations almost never start before an emergency and are active only during the emergency and during the immediate aftermath if government emergency management offices need communications support. RACES is normally shut down shortly after the emergency has cleared.
 - c. If local amateur radio operators are activated by an authority other than FLFD, they should notify FLFD of the activation and availability.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

1. When activated, AuxComm personnel will be tasked with specific responsibilities provided through an established chain of command for the incident or event.
2. AuxComm personnel are often viewed as general communications resources, and may be asked to perform tasks or use equipment other than radios, e.g., assisting with telephone calls, monitoring scanners, serve as message runners, review various websites, enter/track data using emergency management software applications, or other information sources that are providing situational awareness data to an Emergency Manager.
3. AuxComm personnel may be asked to use personally owned communications equipment, or operate public service equipment on behalf of the served agency. Assigned locations may be mobile (in vehicles), portable (temporary station set up with or without shelter) or at an established base station (such as a home station or the one at the FLFD station). Assignment

durations may range from just a few hours to multiple days, and personnel should be prepared accordingly.

4. AuxComm personnel are NEVER to self-deploy to the scene of an incident or an incident command post.

AUXCOMM CONTACT LIST

John Nelson (N7MLS)	602-686-4243, FLFD scanner, W7RIM repeaters
Dagley Reeves (AA7HB)	480-287-4611, HOFD scanner, W7RIM repeaters
Joe Hobart (W7LUX)	928-525-9222, CoCo ARES repeater (Flagstaff)
Mark Christian (WB8VWC)	928-607-2367, CoCo ARES repeater (Flagstaff)
CoCo Emergency Management office	928-679-8322

OPERATIONAL FREQUENCIES

FLFD Repeater and Car-to-Car (ham receive only)	155.760 MHz
CoCo Sheriff (ham receive only)	155.490 MHz
W7RIM repeater (Forest Lakes, PL Tone 156.7)	146.800 MHz
W7RIM repeater (Heber, PL Tone 162.2)	146.800 MHz
Coconino County ARES (Mt Elden, PL Tone 162.2)	146.980 MHz
AZ State RACES	3.990 Mhz

Auxiliary Communications Field Operations Guide (AUXFOG)

The US Department of Homeland Security, Office of Emergency Communications has published an Auxiliary Communications Field Operations Guide (AUXFOG). See

http://www.publicsafetytools.info/auxfog/start_auxfog_info.php The AUXFOG shall serve as the authoritative reference for FLFD auxiliary communications.

- a. "The Auxiliary Communications Field Operations Guide (AUXFOG) is a new reference for auxiliary communicators who directly support backup emergency communications for State/local public safety entities or for an Amateur Radio organization supporting public safety.
- b. This reference guide contains information about AuxComm best practices, frequently used radio frequencies, Mutual Aid channels as well as tips and suggestions about auxiliary emergency communicators integrating into a NIMS ICS environment to support communications for planned events or incidents. It can serve as a reference both for auxiliary emergency communicators and public safety communications professionals."
- c. The AUXFOG does not provide any form of direction or policy, but is solely intended to serve as a resource guide that may be used for reference when executing assigned tasks.