

Malad Idaho Stake

Emergency Communications Plan (Revised Sept 8, 2024)

Individuals:

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

If you discover there are needs, there are needs that cannot be resolved by yourself or neighbors call emergency or professional services.

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 the severity, that could be hours, days or weeks away.

In a widespread emergency information will be compiled and reported. Responses will be coordinated at local, area and regional levels respectively.

Priesthood leaders:

Reporting should be done through established leadership. Reporting to Elders Quorum and Relief Society Presidencies, who will in turn report to Bishopric and they will in-turn report to the Stake. The Ward Emergency Communications Specialist, (WECS) will coordinate those communications.

WECS should have a complete list of phone numbers, email addresses, radio channels/ call signs, and notebooks on hand. Also Church reporting forms.

Having phone numbers written down is important. Each WECS should have a list of numbers written down. They should also have an established and tested method of communication in the event traditional communications fail.

If phone lines are tied up, text messaging is the next best. Text will often go through when voice communications fail.

If phones, fail then hand held radios/walkie talkies, FRS, GMRS or HAM radios will be used.

Depending on distance and ability messengers may need to be used.

If normal communications do not work, then two-way radios will be used. In that event, FRS radio channels will be assigned to avoid cross communication and interference.

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 back if a situation is resolved, so resources are only sent to where they are needed.

WECS-Stake and Ward Emergency Communications Specialists:

Stake and Ward communications specialists have been called and should have access to FRS and HAM, (Amateur) radios.

The Local HAM Club Repeater will be our primary channel @ 448.950 – tone 77.0HZ.

The secondary channel will be 146.540 Simplex.

FRS Channels will be as follows:

No sub channels! For example, Stake is channel 15.0 not 15.3 or any sub number

- Malad Stake will be **channel 15** (Please note on 9/8/24 we reassigned channels)
- First ward will be **channel 1**
- Second ward will be **channel 2**
- Third ward will be **channel 3**
- Fourth ward will be **channel 4**
- Fifth ward will be **channel 5**
- Sixth ward will be **channel 6**
- 7th ward will be **channel 7**
- Pleasantview ward will be **channel 18**
- St John ward will be **channel 19**
- Holbrook Ward will use **channel 20**, but then will need to communicate with the Stake 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.
- Young Single Adult Branch channel 21

Currently unassigned channels:

Ch 16

Ch 17

Ch 22

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

**** If Families wish to use FRS radios for general communications during an emergency please use channels 8 through 14**

Priesthood leaders and ward leaders should gather all incoming information on their assigned channel and then ward leadership will use the stake channel 15 to report their situation and needs to the stake. After the report is made, updates need to be given especially if a situation is resolved.

FRS radios are limited by distance and terrain, so if you hear someone calling for assistance and they are not getting an answer, go ahead and answer and relay for them.

The stake building is higher in elevation than the valley floor and should be reachable by most wards. Brother Llewellyn lives at a higher elevation in Samaria and can relay, if he is at home.

Location may be a consideration for calling ward communication specialists. Those in higher elevations will have better communication abilities over those in flat or low lying locations.

There is a weekly HAM radio "NET" held every Sunday night at 8:00pm. It is hosted by the Raccoon Amateur Radio Club, usually on frequency 448.950mhz, quarterly on 146.540mhzAny ham operator is able to check in. Visitors are always welcome.

Having a weekly ward/stake net on FRS radios will create awareness of communications abilities in the event that phones fail. **Ward Radio Net checks will be conducted at 7:00 pm. Each Ward should use their assigned frequencies/channel so as to not walk on other wards. WECS should use the Radio Net Protocol form for conducting this Sunday evening radio exercise.** WECS should share their results with the Bishop and Ward Council members to identify your dead or weak areas and encourage more families to participate.

A Stake wide communication Net for Ward Emergency Communication Specialists and/or Priesthood Leaders will be held on Sunday evenings at 7:15 pm. FRS channel 15 should be used for that net.

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

Upon gathering ward information, Bishops will contact the Stake President with specific needs.

The Stake President will Report to Area Presidency and coordinate with them and VOADs as necessary.

Government Help will be assigned by priority. Our community will be low on the priority list.

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

Ward, stake and community leaders should record logs of recovery efforts. Volunteers, hours, all efforts to restore and repair damages will be recorded. This information is used to reimburse local entities for efforts.

Priesthood leaders should identify all concerns that require responses which result in assisting/rescuing others, evacuations, repairs....

This is a work in progress. Weekly Sunday night Radio Nets may be needed at first and then as we get it done and feel good about the results, we can then move to like every 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month. Keep those radios charged and ready to go.

Please work within your assigned units/organizations to also include:

- group texting (identify which phone number people need to report to?)
- group email list (this may be one master list or broken down into district or zones)
- have a hard copy of ward or unit directory (names, addresses, phone, email, etc)
- 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.