

TEXAS STATE R.A.C.E.S.

DISTRICT 4 HURST

RADIO AMATEUR CIVIL EMERGENCY SERVICE



[The Foreword of the Texas State R.A.C.E.S. Plan describes the need as follows:](#)

The State of Texas is susceptible to the effects of both natural and man-made disasters. The Division of Emergency Management, as directed by the Governor, is responsible for coordinating State resources in response to these threats and for advising local governments in their preparations toward meeting these situations. At times, State and/or local government resources are inadequate to effectively respond to such incidents. This can be especially true in the area of communications when normal day-to-day systems are used in support of widespread emergencies or disasters. Because of system outages or overcrowding by emergency traffic, normal communications systems may become unusable or inadequate to meet emergency or disaster needs.

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has authorized emergency management organizations to officially organize and employ radio amateurs to supplement state and local government communications systems in emergencies or disaster operations.

The FCC advocates the principle that a fundamental basis and purpose of the Amateur Radio Service is to provide voluntary noncommercial emergency communications to the public. Although there are other amateur radio organizations that provide excellent volunteer public communication service, Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) stations are the only Amateur Radio Service stations authorized by the FCC to provide communications during periods of declared emergency when clear frequencies are established by the FCC.

The State of Texas, through the Governor's Division of Emergency Management, endorses the RACES program as an official resource of the State in support of emergency or disaster operations. The Chief of Division of Emergency Management has appointed a State RACES Radio Officer responsible for organizing and directing the State RACES program and for providing guidance to local governments to establish and operate local RACES programs.

[See the back of this page for more information!](#)

[If you are interested in joining Texas State R.A.C.E.S.](#)

You must have an amateur radio license and be willing to serve your County and the State.

The Texas State R.A.C.E.S. Standard Operating Procedure sets forth the minimum requirements for continued membership:

Reliability must be the mainstay of the State RACES program. Reliability can only be shown by an organization or individual's activities. Therefore, in order for an individual to maintain certification in the program, minimum participation is required. An acceptable standard of participation is to be actively involved in at least two state RACES activities each quarter of a fiscal year. Participation may be in the form of, but not limited to, training activities, exercises or meetings.

[How does Texas State R.A.C.E.S. work?](#)

Texas State R.A.C.E.S. consists of a hierarchy of officers that reach from the county level to the district level, to the regional level, and to the state.

County Liaison Officer (CLO) Alternates are members who serve in their county of residence. Each alternate is responsible to the CLO and a CLO Alternate assumes the CLO responsibility when the CLO is unavailable.

County Liaison Officer (CLO) is responsible to the District Radio Officer (DRO) for liaison between the State R.A.C.E.S. and local government R.A.C.E.S. program by

- Supporting State Emergency Operations in their respective District.
- Encouraging local governments in their county to support R.A.C.E.S. programs.
- Providing advice to local governments on initiating and conducting local R.A.C.E.S. programs.
- Participating in local government R.A.C.E.S. training and emergency operations when invited by the local government.
- Advising local government R.A.C.E.S. officer on State R.A.C.E.S. activities (such as District Net activations, exercises, new or amended procedures or materials, etc.)
- Acting as an interface between local government and State R.A.C.E.S. radio nets.

- Advising the DRO of amateur frequencies that are in use in the county in support of local government R.A.C.E.S. or other amateur radio emergency services.
- Providing the DRO and District Coordinator (DC) fiscal year quarterly reports of any R.A.C.E.S. activities in which the CLO participated.
- Accomplishing other activities as required to conduct efficient R.A.C.E.S. operations within the county.

District Radio Officer (DRO) is responsible to the State RACES Radio Officer for administering the State RACES program and conducting State RACES operations in support of the Disaster District in accordance with the SOP and the State RACES Plan. This includes recruiting and training members, coordinating the use of frequencies, and coordinating with other amateur radio emergency organizations, as well as other duties.

[The structure of Texas State R.A.C.E.S.](#)

Texas State R.A.C.E.S. is structured around the 24 State Disaster Districts that correspond to the Texas Department of Public Safety Highway Patrol District and Sub-Districts. Each disaster district has a disaster district committee comprised of state agency field representatives and chaired by the Commanding Officer of each Highway Patrol District of Sub-District.

When a local government requests activation of their local R.A.C.E.S. and it is necessary for the local government to escalate their situation to the district level, the CLO and CLO Alternates are activated to provide liaison communications between the local R.A.C.E.S. and the Disaster District. The CLO will establish a net and notify the DRO of the event. Participation of Texas State R.A.C.E.S. then escalates to the region or state level if the Disaster District requires additional R.A.C.E.S. help. The net established by the CLO may be expanded as necessary. In general, the activation of Texas State R.A.C.E.S. follows the escalation of an event by the local government and the Disaster District.

[Who do I contact for more information?](#)

Visit the District 4 Hurst webpage at

<http://dro4hurst.texasraces.org>

There you will find on the CONTACTS page, a listing of email addresses for the CLO of your county. In addition, on the RESOURCES page you can find the Texas State R.A.C.E.S. Plan and SOP.