**Net Preambles**

**Here is a sample preamble that can be used for the training net exercises**

Calling the Northern Florida ARES Hurricane net . Calling the Northern Florida ARES Huricane Net. This is <Call>, and I will be the net control for this net. My name is <name>, and I am located in <city>. This net has been called to pass traffic related to Hurricane Zelda. <call> will be the alternate net control station. Are there any stations with emergency or priority traffic for the net? Please call now. Are there any stations with any other traffic? Please call now. Are there any stations that would like to check into the net? Please call now. Are there any announcements or other business for the net?

Normally a Net Control Station will start or begin his or her net with a preamble that announces the net, tells what its purpose is, and who is the net Control station. The preamble also typically gives the ground rules by which the net operates. For example, here is the preamble I have used to call the Capital District ARES, a VHF net that operates on Sunday evenings.

Calling the Capital District ARES Net. Calling the Capital District ARES Net. This is <Call> net control for this evening’s net. My name is <name>, and I am located in <city>. The purpose of the Capital District and surrounding areas informed about emergency preparedness and public service communications. This net meets every Sunday evening at 8 p.m. local time. All stations are welcome to check in.

Before taking check-ins from the amateur community at large we would like to hear from ARES officials.

ARES officials, call sign, name, and function.

(Take check-ins from officials)

We now take check in from the amateur community, first by county in the Capital District, then other Florida Counties, and finally stations in Georgia.

So, Capital District. Gadsden County (take check ins). Jefferson County (take Check-ins), Leon County (take check ins), Liberty County (take check ins), Wakulla County (take check-ins)

Other Florida Counties (take check ins)

Any Georgia stations (take check ins)

Any stations that we have missed or are running late.

Is there any business or announcement for the net

CLOSING THE NET

Typically, once net business has been taken care of, and nothing else remains, the net closes. In an emergency, of course, it would stay open to handle any traffic that may need to be passed that surfaces later.

There are no magic words to close nets, but something like the following would do;

This is <call>. Is there any business for the net or any station desiring to check in. (Pause). Nothing heard. I will at this time close the <name of the net.> Thanks to all who checked in. This net will next open on<give time net will next meet> 73 this is <call>

CHANGING NET CONTROL STATIONS

In an ongoing emergency such as hurricanes, ARES nets tend to last hours, and sometimes days. Hence, Net Control Stations typically serve in shifts, often 4 hours long, and in dire circumstances, 8 hours. At the end of a shift, the new NCS will check into the net with the outgoing NCS. As a matter of courtesy and smooth net operations, the new NCS should check into the net 5-15 minutes before his shift begins. Below is a typical change of shift dialog

W4OLD this is W4NEW on station ready to assume duties as the NCS for the North Florida ARES net. Over.

W4NEW this is W4OLD. Good morning. There are (number) of stations on net. The net is yours. 73. This is W4OLD over.

W4OLD this is W4NEW. Thank you. Have a good day. Ok, I would like to see who is on frequency. (The New NCS then conducts a check in/roll call.)

This is W4NEW. Thank you. This a directed net. If you have traffic for the net, or need to contact another station contact me. Unless any station has business for the net, we will now monitor the frequency. This is W4NEW Net Cotnrol for the NFL ARES net standing by

xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

**Net Control Problems**

Two types

Frequency

Noisy

Sometimes localized to a particular frequency

Move to different frequency/band

Poor band conditions

Check for better band-use propagation chart programs

Have procedures for changing to alternate frequency

Station

Weak

Ask for help

Alternate NCS

Listen

Use noise blanker, noise reduction, notch filters

Check in later

Jamming

Ignore

Move to an alternate frequency

Another QSO-ask to move or move net to another frequency

**The ICS 309**

The importance of keeping a log

The ICS 309

What to log

What to do with the log

**Handling Message Traffic**

Net Control duties

Keep the band clear