

Appendix B – Regional Net Protocols

These protocols are designated for Washington Regional Homeland Security Coordination District IV emergency/disaster communications interoperability via amateur radio.

B1 Concept of Operations

B1.1 The Washington Region IV Emergency Operations Net is designed for inter-jurisdictional command and control operations. It serves as a:

- Direct interconnection between the primary Emergency Operations Center (EOC) in each Washington Region IV county.
- Backup to communications provided by the Washington Comprehensive Emergency Management Network (CEMNET) in Region IV counties.
- Common point of contact for other governmental EOCs in Region IV.
- Common point of external contact with the region by the Washington Emergency Management Division (EMD) and by adjoining Regional Homeland Security Coordination Districts.

B1.2 Participation in the Region IV net is limited to stations operating from within a governmental (federal, tribal, state, county, or local) EOC, stations authorized by a state or county EOC to communicate on their behalf, an (optional) Region IV net control station (NCS), and alternate Region IV net control stations. Although FCC regulations prohibit “frequency ownership” in the amateur bands, every effort will be used to enlist voluntary cooperation by other amateurs during simulated and emergency/disaster operations.

B1.3 This net is not for communications between:

- An Incident Command Post and the jurisdictional EOC.
- Amateur radio emergency communications volunteers who are not affiliated with district operations.

B2 Protocol – Net Activation

B2.1 Activation of the Washington Region IV net may occur in one of the following ways:

- As agreed upon in advance by the amateur radio emergency communications leaders in the Washington Region IV (for training and exercises).
- At the request of the Emergency Manager or amateur radio emergency communications leader in an affected area.
- Self-activation by a Region IV Alternate NCS after a Disaster Emergency (as defined in section 6.3) strikes, and when no amateur radio emergency communications leader can be contacted.

B2.2 The regional net should be established on Appendix C frequencies WW4A00 (primary), WA4A01 (secondary), or WA4A21 (tertiary) unless conditions surrounding the emergency require otherwise.

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- B2.3 If net operations cannot be established on any of these frequencies, the EOCs should use other forms of contact (such as available commercial services or digital messaging) to coordinate communications frequencies.
- B2.4 In the event that the methods in paragraphs B2.2 and B2.3 fail, then EOCs should transmit/listen on the Washington Region IV frequencies listed in Appendix C at specific times past the hour as follows:
- From :00 through :04 – WA4A02
 - From :05 through :09 – WA4A20
 - From :10 through :14 – WA4A22
 - From :15 through :19 – WA4A10
 - From :20 through :24 – WA4A23
 - From :25 through :29 – WA4A41
 - From :30 through :34 – WA4A02
 - From :35 through :39 – WA4A24
 - From :40 through :44 – WA4A22
 - From :45 through :49 – WA4A26
 - From :50 through :54 – WA4A23
 - From :55 through :59 – WA4A42
- B2.5 Nothing in this protocol prevents amateur radio emergency communications personnel at an EOC from delegating contact initiation to multiple other amateur radio emergency communications stations so that many frequencies can be monitored in parallel and the remote EOC contacted more quickly to establish a direct communications link.

B3 Protocol – Net Operations

- B3.1 Each EOC, or the Alternate NCS if activated, shall establish contact with jurisdictional and state EOCs, and other entities specified in the Washington State Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan as required to facilitate communications. Maintaining redundant paths and modes of operation is deemed indispensable.
- B3.2 If an Alternate NCS is activated, the NCS will maintain a clear frequency for inter-jurisdictional command and control communications and serve, as needed, as a “store and forward” communications entity for times when EOC personnel are otherwise occupied and are unable to immediately respond.
- B3.3 NCS operators may transfer all or part of their NCS duties to alternate Region IV NCS operators to enhance net efficiency and/or for rest periods.
- B3.4 The tactical identifiers used (and expected) on this net are:
- “ {county or jurisdiction name} EOC”
 - “ {tribe name} EOC”
 - “Alternate Net Control Station”
 - “OES”
 - “ {county or jurisdiction name} EOC Relay”
 - “Washington State EMD” (or “Camp Murray”)

B4 Protocol – Weekly Operational Test

Each Tuesday at 9:15am (on each frequency to be tested):

- QST, QST, QST, the weekly operational test of the Washington Region IV Emergency Operations Net will be conducted on this frequency in approximately five minutes. End of QST. {callsign}

Each Tuesday at 9:20am:

- QST, QST, QST, this is {callsign} in {name} County, Washington, conducting the weekly operational test of the Washington Region IV Emergency Operations Net. During emergencies and disasters, this net may be activated to coordinate response activities between the Washington Region IV Emergency Operations Centers in Clark, Cowlitz, Skamania, and Wahkiakum counties. We ask that amateur radio stations which are not affiliated with district operations please stand by during this test.
- Please check in as your EOC or position is called.
- Stations located at a Region IV county EOC.
 - *[acknowledge each check-in by callsign or name and log the check-ins]*
- Stations located at another governmental EOC within Region IV.
 - *[acknowledge each check-in by callsign or name and log the check-ins]*
- Stations located at a governmental EOC outside Region IV.
 - *[acknowledge each check-in by callsign or name and log the check-ins]*
- Region IV alternate net control stations.
 - *[acknowledge each check-in by callsign or name]*
- ARRL Official Emergency Stations.
 - *[acknowledge each check-in by callsign or name and log the check-ins]*
- Region IV EOC Relay Stations.
 - *[acknowledge each check-in by callsign or name and log the check-ins]*
- Does any station have any business with another station?
 - *[acknowledge each station and allow them to handle their net traffic]*
- Are there any missed check-ins?
 - *[acknowledge each check-in by callsign or name and log the check-ins]*
- Hearing no further check-ins, this operational test of the Washington Region IV Emergency Operations Net is closed. We would like to thank all stations for participating, the repeater owner for the use of the repeater, and all stations which stood by to give us a clear operating frequency.
- This frequency is returned to normal amateur use. {callsign}

B5 Protocol – Start of Emergency/Disaster Operations

- QST, QST, QST, this is {callsign} in {name} County, Washington, activating the Washington Region IV Emergency Operations Net to provide inter-jurisdictional command and control communications for the current {description} incident affecting our region. Participation in this net is limited to stations operating within a governmental (federal, tribal, state, county, or local) EOC, stations authorized by a state or county EOC to communicate on their behalf, and alternate Region IV net control stations. Other stations involved with emergency communications should contact the NCS within their county or local jurisdiction. Your voluntary cooperation in maintaining a clear frequency for emergency operations is very much appreciated.
- Please check in as your EOC or position is called.
- Stations located at a Region IV county EOC.
 - *[acknowledge each check-in by callsign or name and log the check-ins]*
- Stations located at another governmental EOC within Region IV.
 - *[acknowledge each check-in by callsign or name and log the check-ins]*
- Stations located at a governmental EOC outside Region IV.
 - *[acknowledge each check-in by callsign or name and log the check-ins]*
- Region IV alternate net control stations and report your availability for incident operations.
 - *[acknowledge each check-in by callsign or name]*
- ARRL Official Emergency Stations and report your availability for incident operations.
 - *[acknowledge each check-in by callsign or name and log the check-ins]*
- Region IV EOC Relay Stations and report your availability for incident operations.
 - *[acknowledge each check-in by callsign or name and log the check-ins]*
- This net is now open for the exchange of inter-jurisdictional command and control messages, and EOCs may directly contact each other (or the NCS) at their discretion.

B6 Protocol – Periodically During Operations

- This is {callsign} in {name} County, Washington, net control for the Washington Region IV Emergency Operations Net. This net is activated to provide inter-jurisdictional command and control communications for the current {description} incident affecting our region. Participation in this net is limited to stations operating within a governmental (federal, tribal, state, county, or local) EOC, stations authorized by an EOC to communicate on their behalf, and alternate Region IV net control stations. Other stations involved with emergency communications should contact the NCS within their local jurisdiction. Your voluntary cooperation in maintaining a clear frequency for emergency operations is very much appreciated. EOCs may directly contact each other at their discretion.

B7 Protocol – End of Emergency Operations

- This is {callsign} in {name} County, Washington, net control for the Washington Region IV Emergency Operations Net. This net was activated to provide inter-jurisdictional command and control communications for the {description} incident affecting our region. The Washington Region IV Emergency Operations Net is now closed. We would like to thank all stations for helping to maintain a clear frequency for emergency/disaster operations and the repeater owner for the use of the repeater.
- This frequency is returned to normal amateur use. {callsign}