

**Slovak Amateur Radio Association  
Radio Amateur Emergency Service A.R.E.S.**



# **The Short M A N U A L**

**„Radio Amateur Operation and Emergency Communication“  
(Compiled by OM3CKU and OM1II)**

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## 1. Basic information on providing the communication

The emergency communication A.R.E.S. has been organized by means of HF and VHF radio amateur networks.

The A.R.E.S. - HF radio network has been the main network for providing the radio communication on the territory of the Slovak Republic as well as providing the interactive radio communication also outside of the Slovak territory. Communication within the HF A.R.E.S. radio network will be opened on the frequency **3768 kHz** – plus/minus QRS by means of the LSB mode.

The A.R.E.S. - VHF radio networks serve for providing of local radio amateur communication within regions and districts of the Slovak republic. The communication within the A.R.E.S. - HF radio network will be opened on the frequency **145.5 MHz** – by means of FM operation, or by means of a local repeater on the 145 MHz or 432 MHz.

The person, responsible for organization of communication has been the A.R.E.S. - District Coordinator. This coordinator organizes the communication in cooperation with the local authorities as well as organizations and in accordance with their

requirements. Because of the reason that sometimes it is impossible to provide the communication to a certain district supporting units, so called „**Radio amateur mobile teams**“ (RMT) are created. Usually these are teams consisting of four persons having a maximum equipment available for the purpose of establishing the HF as well as VHF communication anywhere on the territory of the Slovak Republic. The decision regarding personal choice and the actions of the RTM's will be taken by the A.R.E.S. – district coordinator. These RMT's can be employed outside their own domestic district on request and following an agreement of the A.R.E.S – Chairman with the particular District Coordinator, competent authorities and organizations also in case of the following:

- Need of employment abroad
- In another district ( e.g. in case there is no District Coordinator assigned within the particular district)

The operation within the HF network will be controlled by the radiostation of the A.R.E.S. - Coordination Centre under the callsign **OM9HQ**. The operation of other radiostations within the radioamateur HF and VHF network will be carried out by means of radiomateur callsigns of individuals and radio clubs in accordance with „General Licencing Terms for Radioamateur Transmitting Stations“ „ The Statutes of

the Radioamateur Emergency Service A.R.E.S.“ and the „Basic Rules for A.R.E.S. – members“. The operation in participating radio networks will be controlled in accordance with the rules of the Telecommunication Office of the Slovak Republic.

## **2. Basic Rules of the A.R.E.S – Member**

The member:

- will continually keep his equipment in operational condition
- will take regularly part in operation within the A.R.E.S – radio network
- will take measures for an immediate conveyance of the received messages to the addressee
- has been willing to spend his free time for the purpose of establishment and maintaining of radio communication
- will educate himself in the field of radioamateur activities
- will cooperate with the IZS members voluntarily, willingly and by courtesy
- on request of IZS - authorities takes part in the requested trainings
- will take care of publicity of the A.R.E.S – ideas
- in his behaviour has been a exemplary citizen
- observes the hamspirit rules

### **3. Important Steps in Case of Need of A.R.E.S. - Activation**

- Make yourself sure that your family is in safety
- Monitor the networks allotted to the A.R.E.S – network
- Contact your District A.R.E.S – Coordinator
- Observe orders for activities in endangered areas, issued by the competent authorities

### **4. Commencing of Activity**

- Check the radio equipment and prepare the emergency set
- The network Master station ( of the District, or national) will open operation within the emergency network and will log on the calling radiostations and will provide information for the further activity
- Make the radiostation log ready for emergency service. You will use this log during your emergency operation
- Record the time of commencing of the emergency operation as well as all operational data ( frequency, participating radiostations and their service within the radio network)

- Record all received and sent messages (headings of messages and wires), the senders and the assigned receivers, as well as the fact, by whom the delivery to them was requested, in case that you submit the message as the first radiostation having received the particular message
- Strictly observe the operational discipline
- Monitor the working frequency continuously and in case you are forced to interrupt the activity for more than 5 minutes, report this fact to the master radiostation and after returning back to the frequency register yourself again to previous activity
- Do not use your radiostation as an alternative for commercial radio news
- During the activity within the emergency network do not contact other radio amateur stations
- In case you realize any interference on the working frequency, draw the attention of the interfering station to the fact of their interfering the emergency communication, but do not explain what is going on (this will be announced in the TV and radio news).

## **5. Basic List of Technical Equipment and Personal Needs**

- a TRX for 145 MHz FM
- an magnetic base antenna for the TRX or a portable antenna with coaxial cable
- headphones
- copy book and pencils
- personal documents and radio amateur licence, a log
- spare batteries, adaptor for car battery, battery charger
- appropriate clothing
- Food and water for approx. 3 days. This should be a part of the „Emergency package“

## **6. Recommended Equipment – a More Detailed List for 3 days**

According to experience from international activities, the employment within the emergency service is not supposed to last longer than 3 days. The list shown below seems to be rather long, but after considering its contents, you will realize that the list

is justified. Note, that during an emergency/salvage action one cannot rely on anybody helping, or taking care of our needs.

- Food tins (various kinds, tinned meal - at least one meal per day), bread, water : 2 – 3 litres a day, useful are also sugar-free fruit juices
- A cup, military vessel set, cutlery, or at least a spoon and a knife
- Operational documentation pertaining to the radiostation ( log, auxilliary copy book for notes, an extract of shortenings, Q-codes, or emergency communication procedures)
- A first aid kit within the scope of a car first aid
- Clothes for 3 days
- A torch with sufficient number of batteries
- Matches ( a lighter), candle ( a 3-days lighting type is recommended)
- An alarm clock
- A coaxial cable at least 15 metres long together with HF connectors of the type you use with your equipment, isolating tape, laundry drying string (without a metal core)
- Toilet –set, a suitable pain killer
- Raincoat



- Tent and sleeping-bag
- Portable cooker (using spirit tablets or similar), detergent for washing the dishes
- Batteries for the transceiver (for a hand-held radio a maintenance-free accumulator of sufficient capacity i.e. approx. 24 hours of receiving and 5 to 6 hours transmitting will be appropriate. For a vehicle radiostation, or a PA to the hand-held radiostation a car storage battery is recommended).
- A common set of tools ( combined pliers, screw drivers, small pliers, cutting nippers, pincers, soldering iron – either battery or gas powered, isolating tape, approx. 3 metres of common car conductor, tie-strips)
- External microphone
- Antenna with accessories, SWR – meter

In case you will be employed in maintaining the communication on SW bands, you will need in addition the following:

- SW TRX working in the output range of approx. 20 W
- Storage battery together with appropriate feeding cable

- An appropriate SW antenna ( e.g. a sloper, Windom, or dipole ) together with a reliable (checked) antenna tuner for its proper adjustment
- A battery charger
- A Morse key

(Translation: Juraj, OM1LY)