

**GWINNETT COUNTY GEORGIA**  
**AMATEUR RADIO EMERGENCY SERVICE**



**Operations Plan**

**Gwinnett County Support Plan 200-2  
(Operation Damage Assessment)**

September 21, 2002  
(Revised 3/27/03)

# **Gwinnett County Support Plan 200-2 (Operation Damage Assessment)**

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## **I. Overview:**

The Gwinnett County Support Plan 200-2, short titled "Operation Damage Assessment", is in support of Gwinnett County Emergency Management Agency's (GCEMA) need for immediate damage assessment following weather events that result in damage. Operation Damage Assessment is designed to provide county emergency management personnel with immediate damage assessment reports through the deployment of Gwinnett County Amateur Radio Emergency Service (Gwinnett ARES) resources into areas that may have sustained damage that impacts the public through a safety hazard such as downed power lines or impassible roads caused by downed trees, flooding, etc. This activity should not be confused with damage assessment performed by the American Red Cross as part of their efforts in response to the needs of individuals left homeless as the result of a disaster situation. Provided communications shall be as a public service and are designed to alleviate public suffering caused by major disaster events.

Gwinnett County Amateur Radio Emergency Service (Gwinnett ARES) supports GCEMA by providing amateur radio operators trained in emergency communications and providing personal equipment and Gwinnett County ARES, Inc. resources to provide emergency communications during disasters and other emergency situations.

## **II. Related Documents/Information:**

Memorandum of Understanding between Gwinnett County Emergency Management Agency and the Gwinnett County Amateur Radio Emergency Service

Gwinnett County Fire Station & Battalion Boundaries Map with Fire Districts

Gwinnett ARES Plan: Gwinnett County Support Plan 200-1

Gwinnett ARES SOP: NET 1-1 Net Control Stations

Gwinnett ARES SOP: NET 1-2 Net Operation

Gwinnett ARES SOP: NET 1-3 Net Frequencies

## **III. Definitions and Terminology:**

**ARES** – Amateur Radio Emergency Service.

**DRS** – Designated Relay Station.

**EC** – Emergency Coordinator (ARES).

**EOC** – Emergency Operations Center (specifically the Gwinnett County EOC).

**GCFES** – Gwinnett County Fire and Emergency Services.

**GCEMA** – Gwinnett County Emergency Management Agency.

**NCS** – Net Control Station.

**Response Team** – A team of ten individuals comprised of a Response Team Leader, an Alternate Response Team Leader and eight other emergency-trained amateur radio operators. All members of the team should live within close proximity of the facility with which they are associated.

**RT** – Response Team.

**RTL** – Response Team Leader.

**SOP** – Standard Operating Procedure.

#### **IV. Mission:**

The immediate damage assessment report is critical to the deployment of emergency resources. It is critical to determine the impact of the event causing the damage on the community and on government services. An ineffective or delayed immediate damage assessment can cause unreasonable responses to emergencies, making vital resources unavailable for other emergencies.

The mission of Operation Damage Assessment is to provide immediate damage reports (within minutes) to Gwinnett County Fire and Emergency Services (GCFES), or if the Gwinnett County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) has activated, to the EOC. The following types of information shall be reported:

- Existing or potential need for emergency action;
- Life safety threat to the general public;
- Possible hazards to emergency response personnel;
- Existing or potential property damage;
- Obstructions to site or area access;
- Damage to roadways;
- Damage to municipal services; and
- Other unsafe conditions.

#### **V. Activation:**

##### **Pre-Activation -**

With damage of the type to be reported under Operation Damage Assessment typically resulting from severe weather events, a SKYWARN net may be a precursor to a call for activation of this Plan. If this is the case, all net functions will already be in place. The only change would be termination of the requirement for the liaison to the National Weather Service once the severe weather warning expires.

##### **Activation -**

Formal activation of Operation Damage Assessment will commence when reports of damage are received during the course of a SKYWARN net or if requested by Gwinnett County Fire and Emergency Services and directed by the ARES Emergency Coordinator or his designated representative.

Assignments will be directed through the liaison established with GCEMA.

All tactical nets used to support this plan will operate at Net Condition 2.

## **VI. Deployment Locations and Required Assets:**

Response Teams (RT) from the effected area(s) will be directed by the NCS. Mobile operation will be key in providing the widest coverage for reporting. The liaison station will provide input from county personnel to NCS regarding areas to be investigated. The NCS will make assignments based on availability of personnel.

Should damage assessment be more than a few reports, a RT will be deployed to Fire and Emergency Services' command center co-located with Fire Station 9. A station will be located within the facility to function as NCS and directly pass reports to emergency management personnel.

If the EOC is activated, the EOC Team will activate in the EOC and assume report collection responsibility as the situation dictates.

## **VII. Hours of Operation:**

Based on the situation, the RT's should be prepared to operate until the damage survey is completed.

If a prolonged operation is anticipated, ARES Logistics will be activated to coordinate replacement personnel.

## **VIII. Resources Required:**

Resources required will be based on the scope of the supported incident. All attempts will be made to keep RT's whole and to use them in the geographic areas where needed. However, the nature of the event, particularly natural disasters, may require teams to come into an area where the local ARES members must attend to personal issues related to the disaster.

Team augmentation may be required due to the absence of members or the duration of the event. Logistics will coordinate augmentation.

All responding personnel should be prepared with adequate fuel in their vehicles to perform the mission. Remember that power may be out in the response area making refueling in the area impossible. Also, respondents for night damage assessment should be equipped with a light that can be used to see damage to the sides of their vehicles.

## **IX. Safety:**

Under no circumstances are ARES personnel to get into a situation that may put them at risk. Where there is a requirement for immediate response by emergency personnel, notify the NCS that you have emergency traffic and pass the information to Incident Command.

## **X. Tactical Call Signs:**

Tactical call signs will be used as follows:

Location	Tactical Callsign
Net Control Station (NCS)	NET
GCFES Command Center	COMMAND (or NET if serving as NCS)
Designated Relay Station (DRS)	RELAY
Emergency Operations Center	EOC
ARES Logistics Function	Logistics

All stations performing damage assessment will use their operator callsigns.

Other tactical call signs will be assigned by the NCS and/or EOC Team as appropriate.

## **XI. Frequencies:**

Support: Initial activation - 147.075 MHz FM + (PL 82.5).

Health and Welfare: None.

GEMA Liaison: None.

## **XII. Liaison Requirements:**

GCFES Command Center: Telephone: 770-523-5602 – Chief Dave Foster or Chief Lee Mitchell

## **XIII. Logistics:**

Logistics will not be activated unless activity beyond immediate damage assessment is required.

## **XIV. Operation**

All operations will be directed by the EOC Team in coordination with GCEMA.

The AEC for Net Management & SKYWARN or a designated representative will be responsible for establishing an NCS schedule for the conduct of all required nets.

All communications nets will be conducted in accordance with established Gwinnett ARES SOPs.

Specific locations will be provided using street address identifications. General locations will be reported using Fire District identifiers as indicated on Gwinnett Fire Station & Battalion Boundaries maps provided by GCFES.

It is anticipated that most traffic will be tactical in nature. The forms contained in the attachment will be used by all personnel to record and report damage assessments.

## **XV. Deactivation:**

Operations will be deactivated at the direction of GCEMA.

All forms used to record and report damage assessments shall be submitted to the AEC for Administration or their designated representative within 24 hours of the end of the operation.

## **XVI. Post-Event Critique:**

Within five days of terminating incident support, all ARES participants should provide a written assessment of the incident support by ARES along with copies of logs and any formal messages to the AEC for Training. This information will be assembled and discussed at the next regularly scheduled meeting of Gwinnett ARES and shared with GCEMA in post-event discussions.

Attachment  
Damage Assessment Forms







## Form Instructions

Column one, **EOC/LIAISON USE ONLY**, is for the individual taking reports to record the reporting time and the call sign of the station providing the report.

Column two, **LOCATION**, is the address or nearest cross street and distance/direction, i.e., 240 Berkshire Drive, Lawrenceville or 100 yards north of intersection of Highways 316 and 20.

Column three, **DESCRIPTION OF DAMAGE**, is a description of the type damage, i.e., tree down with live power lines.

Column four, **TYPE**, is the most significant type of damage and contains one of the following: GAS, POWER, WATER, SANITARY, DAM, DRAINAGE, ROADWAY, BRIDGE, CULVERT, or DEBRIS, i.e., if it is both debris and downed power line, the type would be POWER.

Column four, **DAMAGE**, is used to indicate the level of damage as defined:

**MINOR** – damage that does not present a threat to life or further property damage, i.e., tree down, blocking a minor area but no other problems associated with the incident.

**MAJOR** – damage that poses further threat to life or further property damage, i.e., downed power lines that are live or of unknown status; ruptured gas line, access to major area is blocked.

**DESTROYED** – facility being reported is totally destroyed, i.e., a bridge is out.