

# FCAA – OPS 101B

## Alert Definitions and Increased-Readiness Conditions

Tonight's training will focus on the four levels of official alerts as well as Readiness Conditions.

There are four (4) ALERT STATUS for AuxComm / ARES and four (4) Readiness Condition Levels. These indicate the Activation status or level for AuxComm / ARES as well as the Readiness Condition.

1. **ALERT:** Indicates that there is a potential for AuxComm / ARES activation and all personnel should monitor the 145.470 MHz (+) PL 100.0 for updates. The repeater courtesy tone and CW will be modified accordingly (Courtesy Tone “ . . “ / CW: I ). ALERTS will include a Readiness Condition Level as indicated below. An ALERT Net may be initiated to determine personnel availability. Personnel should check into the net and advise their deployment ability. Personnel should also check their deployment gear for readiness.
2. **STANDBY:** Indicates that AuxComm / ARES activation is possible or anticipated at any time. An Emergency Operations Net will be initiated on 145.470 MHz (+) PL 100.0 to determine personnel availability as well as direct deployments should they occur. The repeater courtesy tone and CW will be modified accordingly (Courtesy Tone “ \_ “ / CW: T ).
3. **ACTIVATED:** Indicates that AuxComm / ARES has been activated for an event. An Emergency Operations Net will be initiated on 145.470 MHz (+) PL 100.0. The repeater courtesy tone and CW will be modified accordingly (Courtesy Tone “ . . . “ CW: S ). Personnel should deploy ONLY as directed by the AuxComm / ARES EC, designee or NCS.
4. **STANDDOWN:** Indicates that AuxComm / ARES has stood down and all personnel are released. At this point, the repeater(s) will be returned to normal use and any Emergency Operations Net(s) are closed. The repeater courtesy tone and CW will be modified accordingly (Courtesy Tone “ \_ . . “ / CW: D ).

Most naturally occurring emergencies follow some recognizable build-up period during which actions can be taken to achieve a state of maximum readiness. These readiness conditions are used as a method of increasing the alert posture of Forsyth County AuxComm / ARES personnel. These alert conditions are not automatic and are initiated by the AuxComm / ARES EC or designee and follow the Emergency Managements status levels.

### READINESS CONDITION LEVELS

#### Condition 4 – Awareness.

A Condition 4 situation suggests that a higher level of readiness is required. This condition could be triggered by possibility of a weather watch or possibility of increased fire threat because of drought conditions. This condition could also be invoked when there is some potential possibility of civil disorder or terrorism threat. Forsyth County AuxComm / ARES personnel should review the AuxComm / ARES SOP. A Net will normally not be opened.

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### **Condition 3 – Caution.**

A Condition 3 alert may be triggered when the National Weather Service or local weather service, issues a “Watch” condition, or anytime Forsyth County Emergency Management goes to Level 3. In Condition 4 Alert there is no immediate threat to life or property; however, in a Condition 3 Alert it is recognized that conditions may deteriorate into a more hazardous situation.

Conditions that would typically initiate a Condition 3 alert would include, but not be limited to the following severe weather conditions:

- Hurricane Watch.
- High wind advisories with wind velocities in excess of 50 mph.
- High water watch.
- Flash flood watch.
- Tornado watch.
- Winter storm watch.
- Similar conditions in adjacent or nearby counties that could escalate into a mutual aid requirement.
- The possibility of the threat of civil disorder or terrorism could also trigger a Condition 3 Alert.

A net may be initiated at the discretion of the EC or designee.

### **Condition 2 - Alert.**

A Condition 2 Alert is the one that is actually called “Alert,” indicating its increase above the level of “Caution.” It may be triggered by severe weather warnings or anytime that Forsyth County Emergency Management issues a Level 2 Alert. A weather warning is issued when hazardous weather is observed or imminent. For example, High Wind warnings are issued when there are winds at 60 miles per hour or greater.

Similar conditions in adjacent or nearby counties, when the EC has been advised that there may be a requirement for assistance and mutual aid from Forsyth County AuxComm / ARES may instigate a Condition 2 Alert or when a request for Forsyth County AuxComm / ARES personnel to assist a nearby county has been received. An increased possibility of civil disorder or terrorism may also trigger a Condition 2 Alert.

All Forsyth County AuxComm / ARES personnel should be aware that the email-alert system, and possibly a text - message phone tree could be initiated in a Condition 2 Alert. An ALERT Net will normally be initiated to determine availability and / or commence operations. In weather events, the Forsyth County Weather Net may be initiated prior to Condition 2 – Alert.

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#### **Condition 1 - Imminent Danger.**

A Condition 1 Alert is normally triggered by actual weather conditions or severe weather warnings when the danger to personal property and life may be threatened. This level of alert will only be issued when there is a situation that has put the region, state or nation in extreme danger.

The Forsyth County AuxComm / ARES EC would normally be the authority that would be authorized to trigger a Condition 1 Alert. A Condition 1 Alert will not be automatic. Only in extreme circumstances will the unit EC issue a Condition 1 Alert.

Examples of an extreme circumstances could be the touching down of a tornado in Forsyth County with the probability of extensive damage, or civil disorder, terrorism, extremely high winds, or actual (as opposed to predicted) flooding.

Forsyth County AuxComm / ARES – Condition 1 is the highest alert level for the Forsyth County AuxComm / ARES. All preparations will have been made by all Forsyth County AuxComm / ARES personnel, and all are at the ready and standing by for instructions. Assuming that there was sufficient warning and time available, the telephone-text- message tree and email systems will have also been activated.

This concludes tonight's training on Forsyth County NC AuxComm / ARES Alert Definitions and Increased-Readiness Conditions.

END