

Memorandum

From: Tom Whitehurst, KC5UN, Emergency Coordinator
To: Amateur Radio Operators In and Near DeKalb County, Alabama
Date: 28 February 2012; Revised 25 February 2020
Subject: **Emergency Preparedness -- programming local amateur radio frequencies**

LOCAL REPEATERS

As you may know, the DeKalb County Amateur Radio Club's 147.27 MHz 2-meter repeater is on the tower at the county repeater site on Tower Hill above Fort Payne along with a majority of the area's public service repeaters. Although it is unlikely due to on-site backup power, a very robust tower, commercial-grade antenna, and other redundant systems, it is still possible that the DCARC repeater might fail due to a weather (wind, lightning, ice, etc.) or equipment issue. One of the advantages Amateur Radio has over other services is wide geographic distribution of assets. If the 147.27 MHz repeater is disabled for some reason, other area repeaters can be used to maintain communications in an emergency. Therefore, it's important to be able to use these repeaters if the need arises. The first step to doing this is to have memory channels pre-programmed for area repeaters and other frequencies in all of your radios. A second step is to become familiar with coverage of these repeaters in areas where you might be located in an emergency. While the Fort Payne repeater usually provides the best coverage, most of these alternates can cover large parts of DeKalb County.

Please make sure your radios are programmed for the following frequencies:

147.27 MHz / +600KHz offset / 100 Hz tone - Fort Payne (Lookout Mt.)

147.27 MHz / simplex (no offset) / 100 Hz tone - transmits and receives on the Fort Payne repeater output to coordinate communications if the repeater fails (**secondary backup frequency**).

147.47 MHz / -600 KHz offset / 77 Hz tone - Rainsville (**primary backup repeater** if Fort Payne repeater fails) (Sand Mt.) [**NOTE: NON-STANDARD OFFSET DIRECTION**]

146.52 MHz / simplex (no offset) / no tone

147.09 MHz / +600 KHz offset / 203.5 Hz tone - Fabius (N. Sand Mt.)

146.90 MHz / -600 KHz offset / 123 Hz tone – Letcher (W. of Scottsboro)

If you have UHF FM equipment, please include:

444.625 MHz / +5 MHz offset / 141.3 Hz tone – Fort Payne (Lookout Mt.)

444.800 MHz / +5 MHz offset / 100 Hz tone - Fischer (Lookout Mt.)

PROGRAMMING YOUR RADIO

This brings up the issue of programming your radio(s). If necessary, please take a few minutes to review your owner's manual so that you can add these repeaters to your radios' memory channels. I understand that it may be difficult if it's been a while since you've done it, but it'll be a lot easier to do it now rather than in the field during an emergency.

Can't find your manual? Most of the major manufacturers provide free downloads of manuals for radios they've made over the last decade. Here are the addresses for the Icom, and Kenwood document download pages, and instructions for downloading manuals from the Yaesu site:

Icom: <http://www.icomamerica.com/en/downloads/Default.aspx>

Kenwood: http://www.kenwoodusa.com/Support/Amateur_Radio/

Yaesu: <http://yaesu.com/> [select Products, then the category of radio, then the model, then select the Files tab]

Let me know if you're having problems with programming and I can arrange for someone familiar with your brand of radio give you a hand.

Please let me know if you have any comments, suggestions or questions about any of this.

Tom Whitehurst, KC5UN
DeKalb Co. EC