

October 20, 2008

FORD'S COLONY CERT COMMUNICATIONS
PLAN

1. If a weather event is forecast, the Ford's Colony CERT chairperson(s) will send an email 48 hours prior to the event to determine those CERT members who will be available and to remind Ham operators to turn on their radios. The individual members should respond immediately, with a copy (cc) to their respective team leaders. Additionally, team leaders will be contacted by telephone, or all CERT members will be contacted through the "Blast" system.
2. If a weather event or other disaster should strike without warning, Step 1 above should be initiated immediately, recognizing that the loss of electrical power could occur at any time.
3. With the activation of Ford's Colony CERT, the chairperson(s) will assume the responsibility of "Net Control" for purposes of radio communications with the individual teams. In other words that person will either bring up the network or designate another licensed amateur radio operator to be Net Control. The primary communications mode between the various teams and Net Control will be by ham radio.
4. The following frequencies will be used by FC CERT.
 - a. Simplex: 146.46 (primary) 146.58 (backup)
 - b. Repeater: 146.76(primary) 147.105 (backup)
5. Communications within the teams will be whatever works. Walkie talkie (FRS/GMRS), cell phone, messenger – method will be dependent on area to be covered and topography.
6. Tactical ID's for the teams should be the geographical location, e.g. St. Andrews and the operator's first name. Operators must remember to give call sign every 10 minutes and at the end of a transmission.
7. Communications with James City County EOC (146.76) should be restricted to Net Control.
8. In the event of an emergency, the first person on the air should attempt to bring up the network and get check-ins from the various teams.
9. In order for Ham operators to improve their skills and to insure equipment operability, there will be a monthly practice session on 146.58 or 146.46, at 8:00 pm on 1st Tuesday of each month.
10. For teams using walkie talkies, similar periodic practice is encouraged.

(This is a living document and will be amended based on experience.)