• CQ CQ CQ THIS IS THE NORTH TEXAS SECTION ARES QST. THIS IS K5GTX, NORTH TEXAS SECTION EMERGENCY COORDINATOR. THIS IS AN INFORMATION BROADCAST NET ONLY; NO CHECK-INS. ALL AMATEUR RADIO OPERATORS ARE ASKED TO STAND BY FOR INFORMATION.

• WE BREAK NOW FOR EMERGENCY TRAFFIC, EMERGENCY TRAFFIC ONLY PLEASE
• THIS IS THE NORTH TEXAS SECTION ARES QST. THIS IS AN INFORMATION BROADCAST NET ONLY; NO CHECK-INS. THIS NET WILL BE HELD WEEKLY AT 1850 AND 1910 EACH WEDNESDAY CENTRAL TIME UNTIL THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY IS ENDED. ALL AMATEUR RADIO OPERATORS ARE ASKED TO MONITOR THIS BROADCAST FOR INFORMATION CONCERNING AMATEUR RADIO OPERATIONS.
• THE ARES NORTH TEXAS SECTION REMAINS ON STANDBY.

• EMERGENCY COORDINATORS ARE ASKED TO CONTACT WITH MEMBERS AND VERIFY HEALTH AND READINESS ON A WEEKLY BASIS.

• PER TEXAS GOVERNOR ABBOTT’S EXECUTIVE ORDER, EVERYONE IS ASKED TO MINIMIZE ALL NON-ESSENTIAL GATHERINGS AND IN-PERSON CONTACT WITH PEOPLE WHO ARE NOT IN THE SAME HOUSEHOLD. EXCEPTIONS BASED ON DHS GUIDELINES ON ESSENTIAL CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE WORKFORCE
• CERTAIN TELEHEALTH RESTRICTIONS HAVE BEEN WAIVED AND TELEHEALTH OPTIONS EXPANDED BY GOVERNOR ABBOTT

• ALL STATE PARKS AND HISTORICAL SITES ARE CLOSED.

• ALL COUNTIES IN THE NORTH TEXAS SECTION WERE UNDER STATES OF EMERGENCY AND DISASTER DECLARATION AS OF APRIL 12. 64 NORTH TEXAS COUNTIES HAVE REPORTED CASES OF COVID-19.
• SHELTER IN PLACE ORDER REMAINS IN EFFECT THROUGHOUT THE DALLAS FORT WORTH METROPLEX THROUGH THE MONTH OF APRIL. VISIT LOCAL GOVERNMENT INTERNET SITES TO DETERMINE THE CURRENT ORDERS TO ENSURE YOU ARE IN COMPLIANCE.

• TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS VARY BETWEEN JURISDICTIONS. CHECK LOCAL GOVERNMENT WEBSITES FOR DIRECTIVES AND GUIDELINES.
• TRAVEL FROM LOUISIANA REQUIRES 14 DAY QUARANTINE WITH EXCEPTIONS FOR FIRST RESPONDER / COMMERCIAL / MILITARY ACTIVITIES. DEPT OF PUBLIC SAFETY IS STOPPING INBOUND TRAFFIC AT THE LOUISIANA BORDER AND REQUESTING INFORMATION CONCERNING QUARANTINE PLANS.

• AMATEUR RADIO OPERATORS ARE URGED TO MAINTAIN READINESS. OTHER EVENTS HAVE AND WILL OCCUR DURING THIS NATIONAL EMERGENCY AND MAY REQUIRE ARES AND RACES SUPPORT.
• CDC is recommending everyone wear a cloth face covering of multiple layers that fits snugly against side of face over nose and mouth when in public; especially in areas where social distancing is difficult to maintain, such as stores, and pharmacies.

• Continue to practice social distancing of at least 6 feet between non-family members.
• CURRENTLY, THERE IS NO FORECAST FOR SEVERE WEATHER IN SECTION. MONITOR STORM PREDICTION CENTER FOR CHANGES.

• SKYWARN NCSs OR SKYWARN NET MANAGERS ARE ASKED TO PROVIDE REPORTABLE WEATHER EVENTS VIA OTHER METHODS AS PREVIOUSLY ARRANGED IF NWS FIELD OFFICE RADIO OPERATORS ARE UNREACHABLE.
• ALL AMATEUR RADIO OPERATORS MUST COMPLY WITH LOCAL GOVERNMENT ORDERS. IF UNDER SHELTER IN PLACE ORDERS, STORM SPOTTERS ARE ALLOWED TO TRAVEL ONLY IF LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT HAS SPECIFICALLY IDENTIFIED STORM SPOTTERS AS ESSENTIAL AND ALLOWED TO TRAVEL.
• AS ALWAYS, SAFETY IS PARAMOUNT. THINK OF NOT JUST YOURSELF, BUT YOUR FAMILY AND YOUR COMMUNITY. WEAR RECOMMENDED FACE COVERINGS, USE HAND SANITIZER AND STERILIZE HIGH CONTACT / TRAFFIC AREAS.

• NOW IS NOT THE TIME TO RELAX OUR EFFORTS. WE MUST ALL BE DILIGENT MAINTAINING A SAFE ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIAL DISTANCING. OUR EFFORTS ARE WORKING, KEEP IT UP!

• ARES / RACES MEMBERS MAY BE ASKED TO PERFORM FUNCTIONS NOT COMMUNICATION RELATED, SUCH AS WELFARE CHECKS, FOOD AND SUPPLY DELIVERY. WE MUST WORK TOGETHER WITH OUR PARTNER AGENCIES TO GET THROUGH THIS NATIONAL EMERGENCY.
• INFORMATION RESOURCES ARE AVAILABLE ON CORONAVIRUS.GOV, CDC.GOV, TEXAS.GOV AND ARRLNTX SITES VIA FACEBOOK, ARRLNTX.ORG AND GROUPS.IO

• TRUTH IN INFORMATION AND INTERNET SAFETY IS CRITICAL. OUR COUNTRY IS BEING ACTIVELY TARGETED BY HACKERS VIA MULTIPLE METHODS. TAKE EXTRA CARE WHEN GOING ON THE INTERNET AND WATCH FOR SCAMS PARTICULARLY AGAINST THOSE WHO ARE HIGH RISK OF INFECTION.
• THE AMERICAN RED CROSS IS ASKING FOR BLOOD DONATIONS. AN APPOINTMENT IS REQUIRED AND CAN BE SCHEDULED AT REDCROSS.ORG

• SUPPORT LOCAL FOOD BANKS. SOME FOOD BANKS IN RURAL AREAS ARE LOW ON SUPPLIES OR HAVE CLOSED.

• VOLUNTEER TO DELIVER FOOD AND SUPPLIES TO AT RISK PERSONS IN YOUR COMMUNITY.

• VOLUNTEER REGISTRATION IS OPEN ON TEXAS.GOV IN COVID-19 SECTION
• WORK WITH LOCAL COMMUNITY TO MAKE FACE COVERINGS. VISIT JOANN.COM FOR EXAMPLES.

• APPROVED FACE SHIELD TEMPLATES FOR PRINTING; MACHINING OR CASTING IS ON 3DPRINT.NIH.GOV

• REMEMBER TO SAY THANK YOU TO STORE EMPLOYEES, POSTAL WORKERS, AND ESPECIALLY MEDICAL PERSONNEL / FIRST RESPONDERS.
• Amateur radio operators are asked to check on their fellow operators, friends and neighbors. Exercise radio equipment whenever possible.

• Continue to conduct impromptu and scheduled health/welfare nets.

• Consider participating in the Winlink Wednesday net.

• Use your radio, start a conversation. Simply saying hello to someone can be a great boost to morale.
• IF YOU HAVE PPE SUCH AS GLOVES, N-95 MASKS, GOGGLES, ETC, HAVE THEM WITH YOU WHEN VOLUNTEERING. YOUR SAFETY IS PARAMOUNT.

• WE MUST ALL ACT PROFESSIONALLY AND WORK TOGETHER DURING THIS EMERGENCY. THERE IS NO PLACE FOR POLITICS OR EGOS WHEN SERVING.

• REMEMBER YOU ARE SERVING YOUR COMMUNITY INCLUDING YOUR FAMILY, FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS.
• THE NEXT QST NET IS ON APRIL 22, 2020 AT 18:50 AND 19:10 CENTRAL TIME.
• VISIT ARRLNTX.ORG WEBSITE FOR ADDITIONAL INFO
• STAY PREPARED, STAY READY, STAY SAFE
• 73, K5GTX, NORTH TEXAS SECTION EMERGENCY COORDINATOR AND KG5VK, NORTH TEXAS SECTION MANAGER