

# Emergency Communication Specialist Plan for Contacting Stake Presidents and Bishops

---

One of the responsibilities of the Emergency Communication Specialists (ECS) is to “Establish a relationship of trust and confidence with Church leaders. Plan and exercise a method for establishing contact between the leader and the communications specialist under disaster conditions (no phone or cell phone service).”

It has long been a concern that we don’t have adequate plans to make contact with the Bishops and Stake Presidents.

There are two ways that we can address this problem:

- First and most obvious is to have Bishops and members of the Stake Presidency licensed amateur radio operators, equipped with radios and that they are comfortable using them. **Note:** Although there is some efficiency gained by having key leaders licensed hams, their primary responsibility is not to play radio. Rather, they are to lead, direct, and take care of the members of the Church and community, (and Church facilities).
- Second and preferred is to assign a ham as a “Leadership Contact Station”. The primary purpose of this person is to establish contact with their respective Stake Presidency or Bishop as soon as possible when an emergency situation is determined. A written plan should be developed specifying how this contact is to be made. (More about this plan later).

## The Leadership Contact Station

The following may be true about the Leadership Contact Station:

- This person may be the Ward or Stake Emergency Communication Specialist.
- This person could be someone other than the Ward or Stake Emergency Communication Specialist.
- This person could be the Bishop or member of the Stake Presidency. (See the note above.)
- There could be more than one person designated for the Ward and Stake.
- In the case of a Ward, they do not have to be a member of the Ward in which the Bishop resides. This could also apply to the Stake as well, although much less likely.

## The Contact Plan

A written plan should be developed specifying how contact should be made between the Bishop and members of the Stake Presidency as soon as possible when an emergency situation is

determined. Both the leader and the ECS/Contact Station should be active in developing the plan. The plan should not be considered complete until:

- It has been agreed upon by both the Contact Station and the leaders.
- The method has been tested (either an actual test or at least a table-top “walk through” and both are comfortable with the plan).

This plan should consider the following factors and conditions:

- Meet the needs of each person involved.
- Living locations of each person.
- Work locations of each person.
- Establishing a possible designated meeting place.
- Distance and possible road conditions between each person and/or meeting place.
- If leaders are also hams, then use and follow the Region Monitoring Plan for the contact.

## **Plan Examples**

### **Example 1**

The Bishop and Stake Presidency are hams. Initial contact will be made either according to the Region Monitoring Plan or by checking into the ERC net.

### **Example 2**

Key leaders and the Contact Station will meet at the Stake Center. As soon as the Contact Station arrives, they will check into the ERC net from that location, or if the ERC net is not already established, the Contact Station will assume the role of Net Control Station and start the net.