

Communication lessons learned from the East Desert Fire and Peakview Fire
May 17, 2020 to May 19, 2020
Scottsdale AZ North Stake

- ABC News 15 phone app was great for notifying ham operators when the fires first started. This was how we learned of the fires first.
- Use ward map and news reports to help Bishops notify members in path of fire.
- Need help monitoring multiple radio frequencies. Repeaters and Rural Metro.
- Use Remind APP (or equivalent) to quickly notify Ham Radio Operators of disruption.
- Ham operators need radios pre-programmed to repeater frequencies.
- Mobile ham radios enabled operators to safely get near locations to view direction of fire and communicate that information.
- Need alternate net controller for breaks and help with traffic communication.
- Doug helped by giving Rural Metro frequencies to monitor fire.
- Need a communication deployment checklist to make sure we quickly set up and alert everyone.
- Red Cross set up a shelter for evacuees at Cactus Shadow HS. Some evacuees didn't want to use it because of Covid fears. Some slept in cars.
- Bishop used drone from his home to see fire status. He is a commercial pilot and followed FAA rules. He was located near and upwind of the fire and was not in danger. We should add members with drones to our "Members with special equipment/skills list".
- When members are evacuated, church HQ will have representatives call and ask for the following: Are missionaries safe and accounted for? Is church property in danger? Have members in the affected area been accounted for?
- Ham radios are the best way to get information out fast to anyone listening without repeating on other devices.
- Need a way to notify High Councilors quickly to help Bishops/Ward as needed. (Remind App?) Remind App is a text messaging app that sends one message quickly to all that have enrolled.
- **Biggest question:** How to help reduce the communication workload of the Bishop during disruptions?
 - To pass information back and forth to members
 - To gather information from members
 - Use Remind App, or equivalent, to alert members and disseminate information to members quickly
 - Wards need communication plan and structure to organize information