

**NET CONTROL SCRIPT OUTLINE
FOR THE
MONTGOMERY COUNTY EMERGENCY & PUBLIC SERVICE NET**

[This is the recommended net script. Net control operators may make minor modifications to this script to suit their personal preferences, or dispense with the script altogether on evenings when an exercise is being conducted. However, for consistency, please stick with the basic structure of the net unless there is a compelling need to use a different approach.]

CHECK THE FREQUENCY: "Is the frequency in use?"

[If you have been monitoring the frequency for a few minutes prior to net time, there is no need to ask! If you have just turned on the radio, wait at least ten seconds before transmitting.]

IDENTIFY: "This is (your call sign). My name is (name), and I will be Net Control for tonight's session of the Montgomery County Emergency & Public Service Net."

[Remember to identify your station at least every ten minutes.]

PREAMBLE

"This net is held every Tuesday at 8pm, except for the first Tuesday of the month, when MCACS members meet via Zoom rather than on the air. Nets are usually held on this [the 146.955] repeater, courtesy of the Montgomery Amateur Radio Club. If this repeater is unavailable, look for us on the WA3YOO repeater, 443.9 MHz.

This net is a joint activity of the Montgomery County Amateur Radio Emergency Service, ARES, and the Montgomery County Auxiliary Communications Service, MCACS. The net is also a focal point for information about Amateur Radio public service activities in the County and nearby jurisdictions. Any Amateur who is interested in emergency and public service communications is welcomed and encouraged to check in and participate.

ARES and MCACS have overlapping missions and membership. MCACS members who are hams are encouraged to participate in ARES, and ARES members in Montgomery County are encouraged to register as members of MCACS. In practice, many of our activities, including these weekly nets, are carried out jointly. For more information about MCACS and ARES, please see our shared website, mcacs.net.

"This is a directed net, so all communications will be directed by and through Net Control. In line with our training mission, the net protocol is a bit different than most social nets. The goal is not to be rigid, but to practice techniques to minimize net overhead and efficiently communicate critical information. Please carefully listen to and follow Net Control's instructions. When Net Control asks for stations with announcements, comments, questions, or traffic for the net, those stations having traffic should take turns responding with your call sign, once only, with no additional information. Net Control will follow up with each responding station in turn.

"If you are new to directed net operations, please don't be shy about participating. Net control might correct you if you commit a breach of protocol, but if this occurs, please don't take it personally, as making mistakes is a very efficient way to learn. If you have questions about anything you hear, there is usually an opportunity at the end of each net for comments and questions.

“We will now take check-ins. When checking in, please speak slowly and give your call sign one time using ITU phonetics. We will start with ...

- ... Mobile and handheld stations only.
- ... Base stations operating on emergency power
- ... Call sign suffix beginning with Alpha through Lima *[break up the alphabet based on the anticipated number of check-ins]*
- ... Call sign suffix Mike through Zulu
- ... Any station not yet recognized.”

[The order of asking for check-ins may be changed to suit the net control operator’s needs.]

- *We generally give mobile and handheld stations their own window of opportunity because it reduces the likelihood that they will be covered by stronger base stations.*
- *We recognize base stations operating on emergency power to encourage other stations to develop this capability. Here we are referring to a station that includes a mobile-class radio, power supply, and installed antenna capable of reaching local repeaters, and capable of being operated for an extended period in the absence of mains power.*

[Promptly acknowledge all check-ins in small groups. This provides positive feedback and gives stations who were not acknowledged the opportunity to make a second attempt.]

[Ask for late check-ins periodically during the net. If any unfamiliar stations check in, invite them to introduce themselves.]

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Are there any stations with announcements for the net?”

[Announcements should be related to emergency and public service communications. List stations having announcements, and call on them in turn to give their announcements. If you have announcements, deliver them at a speed that can be written down.]

PROGRAM:

[Introduce the program and speaker.]

COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS SPECIFICALLY ABOUT THE PROGRAM:

[Usually the presenter turns the net back to the Net Control, who moderates the comments and questions. If the presenter is an experienced net control operator, he or she may act as the moderator.]

COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS ABOUT ANY TOPIC (pertaining to emergency and public service communications)

CLOSING THE NET

"This is (your call sign), net control for the Montgomery County Emergency and Public Service Net, thanking all stations for participating in tonight's net, and thanks to the Montgomery Amateur Radio Club for the use of the repeater. The net is now secured at (hh:mm). All stations please stand by while the control operator returns the repeater to normal mode. This is (your call sign), OUT."