

AMATEUR RADIO COMMUNICATIONS

MILAM COUNTY ARES NEWSLETTER

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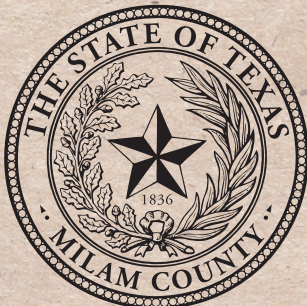
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MILAM COUNTY ARES NEWS

This year has seen some major changes in county management. We have said good-bye to Susan Reinders, KE5LVI, outgoing Milam Co. Emergency Management, and we welcome Kenzie Oliver, KJ5FTJ as her replacement.

For the last year or so, we have been fortunate to not have suffered any major emergencies. We did however, have some learning experiences such as the "BIG" Solar Event this past spring. Had some near misses with tornado weather as well. Also had some problems with the repeater site for the 147.020 machine, as the backup generator failed and had to be replaced. This did not cause any outages except for 15 minutes during re-connection. Work is still ongoing to acquire a spot for another repeater in Milano and possibly one in Thorndale as well.

Amateur Radio Communications

Usage of the repeaters here in Milam County has been sparse and only used mainly for ARES and special events. The 147.020 is an open repeater.

With the total number of Amateur Radio operators listed in the county by both the FCC and ARRL at 72. The number of amateurs operating in events, emergencies and special events is very low. Amateur Radio Emergency Services (ARES) in Milam County has only 8 members and just 1/3 are active during emergencies and special events. During bad weather we only field a few to cover the county. Attached to this newsletter is the application for membership in the Milam County Amateur Radio Emergency Services. To join only requires an FCC issued license and a desire to serve. Anyone over the age of ten and holds any class license for Ham radio can apply. Most of the required training is online and free. There is no minimum completion time frame for the courses. For any additional information you may contact me W5ATN at (254) 482-1902 or email ss_waverider@yahoo.com.

Mike McCue Milam County Emergency Coordinator for ARES.

Please send ARES applications to the Milam County EOC