

ARO Task Description

Revised March 18, 2026

Home-Based ARO

1. Be available to handle traffic between volunteers in the field and the Beaverton Emergency Operations Center (EOC). This includes:
 - a. Radio and verbal traffic from CERT teams with Situation Reports and Requests for Resources to the EOC.
 - b. Relay traffic between nearby CERT teams for coordination.
 - c. Radio and verbal traffic from neighborhood coordinators with Situation Reports and Requests for Assistance.
 - d. All call and team traffic from the EOC to CERT teams and neighborhood coordinators.
2. Conduct a neighborhood size-up and provide Situation Reports to the EOC and CERT teams.
3. In the event of an incident that disrupts normal communication channels, commence monitoring designated frequencies as follows:
 - a. Monitor the primary UHF repeater and report to the EOC as requested. If the UHF repeater is not operational, monitor the primary simplex channel.
 - b. Monitor the GeoTeam simplex channels for the GeoTeam encompassing their neighborhood; periodically announce their presence on frequency, including the top and bottom of the hour; and call for other CERT or BERT team members on frequency to coordinate activities.
 - c. Serve as Net Control and coordinate with other Home-Based AROs to provide Net Control for the GeoTeam.

Field ARO

In a disaster, CERT-trained AROs may be directed by the EOC to deploy to designated rally points within the GeoTeam encompassing their neighborhood.

1. Serve at the rally point to support their deployed CERT team by communicating traffic (as described above) to home-based AROs or to the EOC as needed.
2. Deploy with CERT strike teams to provide radio communications with the EOC.
3. In the event of an incident that disrupts normal communication channels, commence monitoring designated frequencies as follows:
 - a. Monitor the primary UHF repeater and report to the EOC as requested. If the UHF repeater is not operational, monitor the primary simplex channel.
 - b. Monitor the GeoTeam simplex channels for the GeoTeam encompassing their neighborhood; periodically announce their presence on frequency, including the top and bottom of the hour; and call for other CERT or BERT team members on frequency to coordinate activities.

Point of Distribution (POD) ARO

1. Provide radio communication support to PODs by handling radio and verbal traffic (as described above) with the EOC, CERT Teams and home-based AROs.

2. The City of Beaverton will establish remote operations facilities to distribute services throughout the support area. These range from full responder support (police, fire) to CERT team support.

ARO Tactical Considerations

1. Digital Communications (Winlink and AREDN) are the preferred media for communication to the EOC. The Winlink RMS is the W7BVT-10 that will operate to/from the EOC without internet support, if necessary.
2. Communication on established UHF repeater is the primary voice communication to the EOC. Simplex channels (both VHF and UHF) are available as backups and resource channels.
3. CERT individuals and teams will have four levels of communication capability:
 - a. Public Safety HT and mobile VHF capability, including established repeater and simplex frequencies. Some CERT Leadership have personal radios with this capability. Additional radios can be deployed from the EOC, but that deployment may be difficult during a disaster.
 - b. Ham band HT and mobile UHF and VHF capability, including established repeater and simplex capability. The primary EOC contact will be through the UHF repeater and the VHF simplex frequencies. Each CERT GeoTeam is assigned a designated UHF simplex frequency for intra and inter-team capability. As the number of field teams grows, the Home-Based AROs will relay EOC traffic from the EOC frequencies to the GeoTeam UHF simplex frequencies.
 - c. HT FRS capability. Many individual CERTs own FRS radios that will be used for intra-team communication, but not for field ARO communication.
 - d. Many individual CERTs do not have radio capability and will be dependent on rally points, other CERT team members and field AROs for communication. This is most critical in the early stages.
4. AROs will be activated by checking into the EOC through established channels. If they are not able to contact the EOC then they can perform inter-team relay support.
5. Digital communications allow sending a message to the EOC that may be acknowledged later, when the EOC radio room is able to support digital traffic.
6. If the ARO does not want volunteer responders to come to their residence, then they will be typed as such.

The Field ARO Coordinator Assignment

1. Maintain the roster of field AROs, their status, type and capability.
2. Establish a training model for field AROs.
 - a. The planned media and frequencies.
 - b. Training on Situation Reports (coordinate but not provide).
 - c. Coordinate regular exercises that validate the capability and readiness of the field ARO.

Geo Team ARO Lead Position

1. Assist the Field ARO Coordinator with implementation on the Geo Team level by working with a specifically assigned Geo Team.
2. Coordinate with the Geo Team Lead to identify and train field AROs within the assigned Geo Team.