

**Pima County Office of Emergency Management Communications Home Stations Unit Description
February 2015**

The **Pima County Office of Emergency Management Communications (PCOEM Comm) Home Stations (HS)** provide Pima County and bordering counties with a highly reliable amateur radio HF/VHF/UHF emergency communications network, independent of all external technologies and power sources. The HS within Pima County are a part of PCOEM Comm. Those HS in adjacent counties are a part of their respective emergency communications group who operate under reciprocal agreement with Pima County.

The HS network covers the four Border Counties' large expanse and mountainous terrain, without major communications coverage gaps and without dependence upon ham radio repeaters, phone lines, the internet, satellites, and/or commercial electrical power.

HS provide, during emergency incidents and exercises, the Pima County Emergency Operations Center (EOC), adjacent county EOCs and the Arizona State EOC as necessary -- with timely Community Status Reports (CSRs) and incident location information so that EOC Personnel can make best use of the available fire, law enforcement and public service agencies and their resources.

The Home Stations Unit, currently comprised of approximately 25 ham radio operators, has been active since October, 2005. It is intended for ham radio operators who prefer to provide public service emergency communications from their homes during natural or man-made disasters resulting in power/communications outages. The HS operators participate in a directed HF net, each Saturday at 0715 hrs MST, on 3865 kHz (or alternate frequency) for the purpose of emergency training, equipment testing, and message handling. Additionally, HS's periodically conduct informal nets with local emergency communications organizations and other non-affiliated Amateur Radio Licensees, over pre-designated HF/VHF and UHF frequencies. They also interface over VHF/UHF simplex with hams embedded in, or members of volunteer organizations such as the Neighborhood Watch, CERT and other Citizens' Council affiliated groups.

HS operators pass message traffic, CSRs (including casualties, civil disturbances, and local phone/gas/water/power utility status), and other health and welfare information for the residents in their local area. They then combine this information and report it up to the Pima County or Arizona State EOC via HF/VHF/UHF digital and/or voice communications modes.

The HS Unit and their affiliated community groups act as the EOC's "eyes and ears".

For more information, contact:

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