



Amateur Radio

Supporting Texas Division of Emergency Management and Local Community Emergency Response

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Austin, Texas

Amateur Radio Organizations

- **Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES)**
- **Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES)**
- **Military Auxiliary Radio System (MARS)**



Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES)

Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service is an organization created by the Federal Communications Commission FCC Part 97, Section 407 after WW2.

Amateur Radio Organizations " to replace the conventional "Amateur Radio Service" during wartime was developed in 1952 as result of input from the American Radio Relay League and the Department of the Army's Office of Civil Defense.

RACES members are the only civilian group of Amateurs authorized to operate in times of war or other critical events as declared by the Federal Government

Continuity of Governance is primary mission of *Texas RACES*



Texas RACES volunteer operators are:

Licensed Radio Amateurs

Certified by a Civil Defense Agency, TDEM for TX RACES

Background checked

Able to communicate on Amateur Radio frequencies during drills, exercises and emergencies

Activated by local, county and state jurisdictions and are the only Amateur Radio operators authorized to transmit during declared emergencies when the President of the United States specifically invokes the *War Powers Act*.

The TX RACES SOP allows for cross communication with ARES and MARS during emergency & training activations.

Many members wear several hats.





Sponsored by
the American
Radio Relay
League
(ARRL)

Multiple
primary
missions and
served
agencies

Evacuation
and Shelters

Local EOCs

Hospitals

National
Weather
Service

American
Red Cross

ARES

Amateur Radio Emergency Service

MARS

Military Auxiliary Radio System

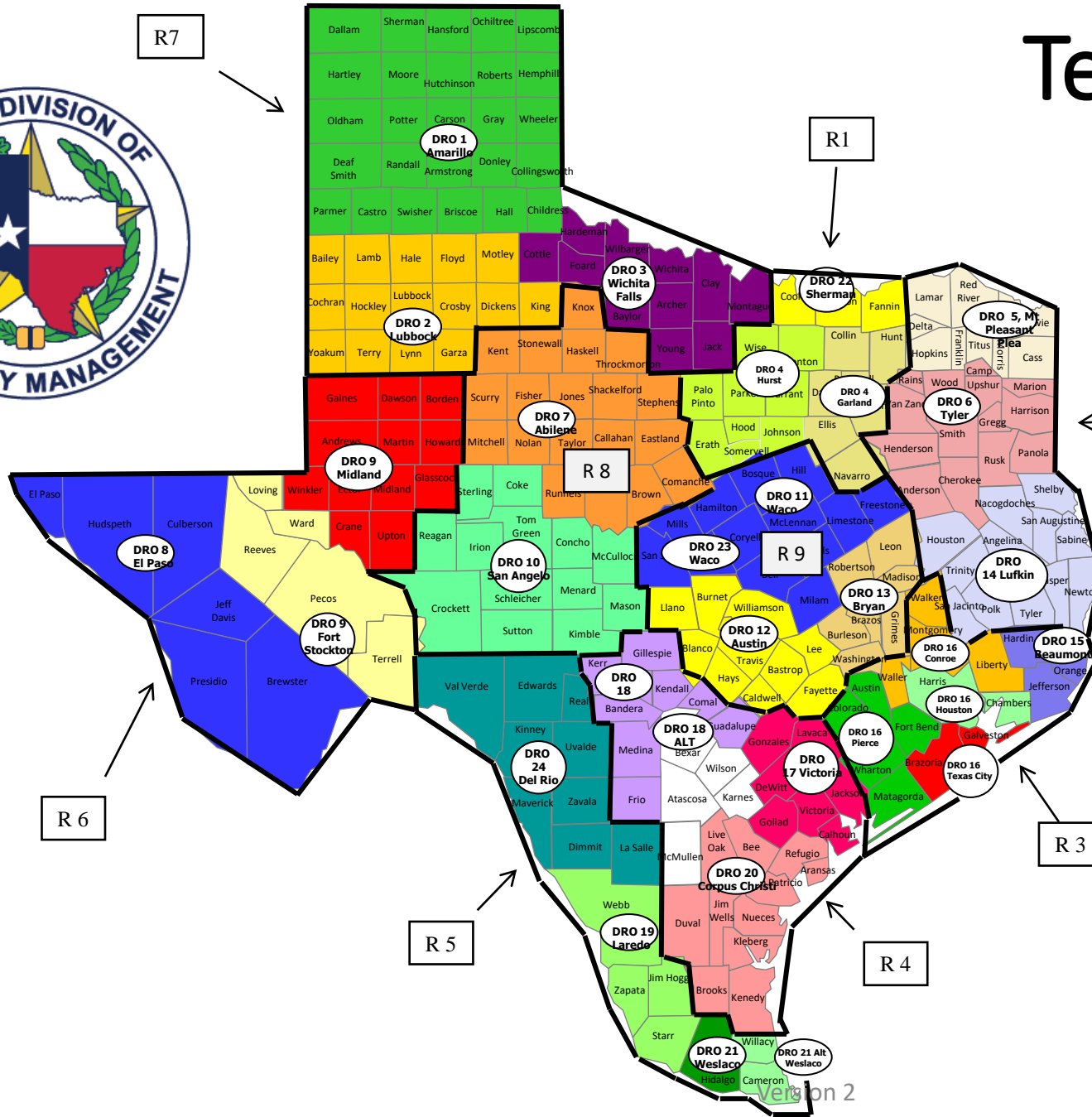
MARS – Primary mission is to support the Department of Defense along with the Texas Military Forces with supplemental communications



Texas RACES

9 Regional Radio Officers
Officers

24 District Radio Officers





FEDERAL
COMMUNICATIONS
SYSTEMS

STATE RACES OFFICER (SRO)
ASSISTANT STATE OFFICERS (ASRO)
(SRO - ASRO)



TEXAS STATE RACES ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

REGIONAL RACES OFFICERS (RRO)
TDEM STATE COORDINATORS (SC)

* SRO is looking at pairing the RACES CLO with the TDEM CLO to enhance local support.

DISTRICT RACES OFFICERS (DRO)
TDEM DISTRICT COORDINATORS (DC)

STATE AGENCY
LIAISON STATION
(SALS)

TDEM CLO
*New Position

COUNTY LIAISON OFFICERS (CLO)
County Judge or County EMC

LOCAL RACES ORGANIZATION/ RADIO OFFICER

COUNTY LIAISON OFFICERS (CLO)
County Judge or County EMC

From the bottom up



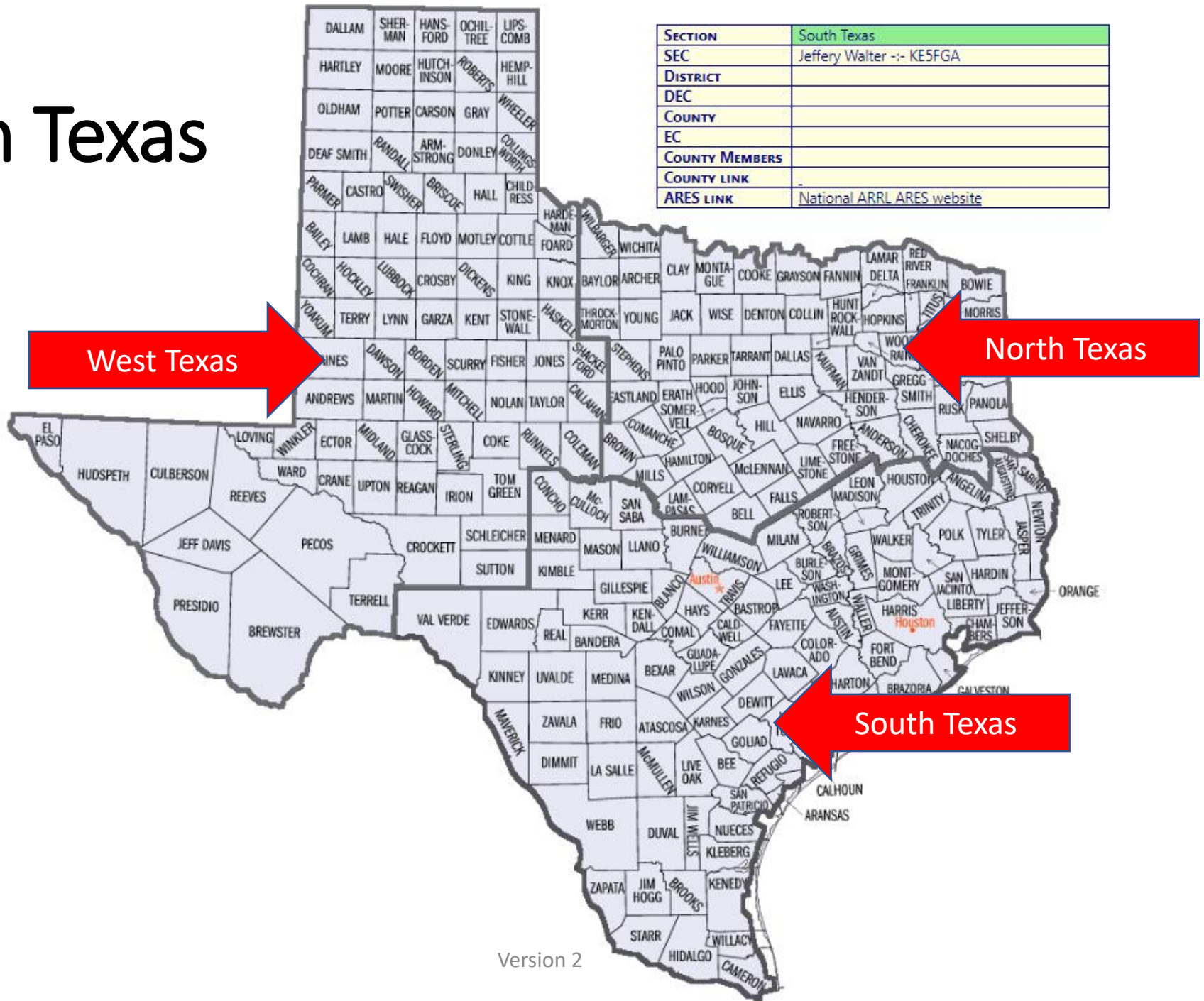
County Judge/Emergency Management Office

**TX RACES County Liaison Officer
District – 12 Austin**

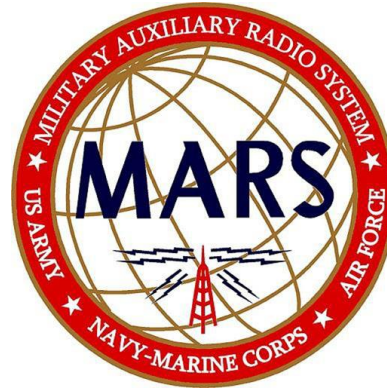
Version 2

ARES in Texas

| | |
|----------------|----------------------------|
| SECTION | South Texas |
| SEC | Jeffery Walter -:- KE5FGA |
| DISTRICT | |
| DEC | |
| COUNTY | |
| EC | |
| COUNTY MEMBERS | |
| COUNTY LINK | |
| ARES LINK | National ARRL ARES website |



Texas Amateur Radio Groups within the CCG



The State of Texas in Texas government code 418.051 created the **Communications Coordination Group**. The CCG facilitates public and private collaboration to plan and deliver communications support during large-scale, multi-agency disaster responses. The Texas Department of Emergency Management is the administering agency. Kevin Lemon, SRO, TX RACES is head of CCG.

CCG Legislation

Senate Bill 936 & House Bill 2320

The CCG was established in 2009 under SB 936 and enhanced in 2019 under HB 2320.

In 2020, the CCG transitioned from DPS to TDEM, after the stand-up of TDEM as a separate agency.

Review of CCG Actions 2020-2022

From 2020 through today, member agencies have been called upon by the CCG to assist. CCG members have supported approximately fifty requests / missions during this period. These requests have included:

Small localized events,

COVID Testing operations,

Winter Storms in 2021 & 2022

Wildfires

Special Events

2022 Severe Weather Outbreaks

Tropical systems that impacted Texas and our neighboring states,

Border operations

Amateur Radio & the CCG

The CCG considers Amateur Radio Operations as a critical portion of its resources and capabilities. Amateur Radio Operations have been integral in all the major emergencies responses the CCG has conducted since 2020.

Amateur Radio has continued to adapt to the changing technologies as well as the needs of the served agencies and local jurisdictions. As such, the CCG continues to look for ways to further integrate Amateur Radio into the Emergency Communications infrastructure.

AUXCOMM in Texas

Texas Div. of Emergency Management and
Department of Public Safety

Development of Curriculum and Training
Program – State of Texas Compliant

Broader Scope of Volunteer Skills

Supplement Emergency Response Personnel

Other states have different versions of the
AUXCOMM concept.

Training Exercises and AUXCOM Activities



**Texas
Environmental
Quality
Emergency
Communications
Trailer**



**Dept. of Public Safety –
San Jacinto
Emergency
Communications Trailer**



Version 2

**Travis County ARES
Emergency Communications
Trailer**



Texas Repeater Networks

Amateur Radio VHF, UHF and SHF repeaters provide wide area coverage for amateur radio communications

Repeaters are linked together using RF and VoIP to cover regions of the State during emergency events

Local communications from hams at the center of an event can relay information to Austin and the TDEM staff at the State Operations Center without the challenges of HF radio

TX RACES NETS

State Wide HF – 2nd and 4th
Sundays at 2:00pm 7.255
Mhz/60 meters

District – 12 Austin – HF
voice net held on
3.975mhz at 6:00pm the
2nd and 4th Sunday
nights of each month.

District – 12 Austin -
WinLink check in form
(template) Net via
Pactor, VARA HF, VARA
FM, or VHF Packet
immediately after the
District HF net. No P2P.





TDEM
THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM



Continuity of Communications
from County to State via Volunteer
Amateur Radio Operators – **TX**
RACES

State Operations Center 24 hours Operations



TDEM
THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

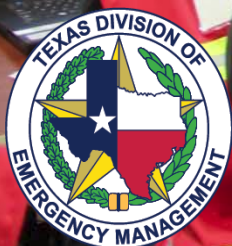


HUMAN SERVICES

WebEOC

SOC Activated upon Emergency

| Time | Event | Location | Status |
|-------|----------------------|----------|--------|
| 10:00 | State Health Officer | ... | ... |
| 10:05 | State Health Officer | ... | ... |
| 10:10 | State Health Officer | ... | ... |
| 10:15 | State Health Officer | ... | ... |
| 10:20 | State Health Officer | ... | ... |
| 10:25 | State Health Officer | ... | ... |
| 10:30 | State Health Officer | ... | ... |
| 10:35 | State Health Officer | ... | ... |
| 10:40 | State Health Officer | ... | ... |
| 10:45 | State Health Officer | ... | ... |
| 10:50 | State Health Officer | ... | ... |
| 10:55 | State Health Officer | ... | ... |
| 11:00 | State Health Officer | ... | ... |

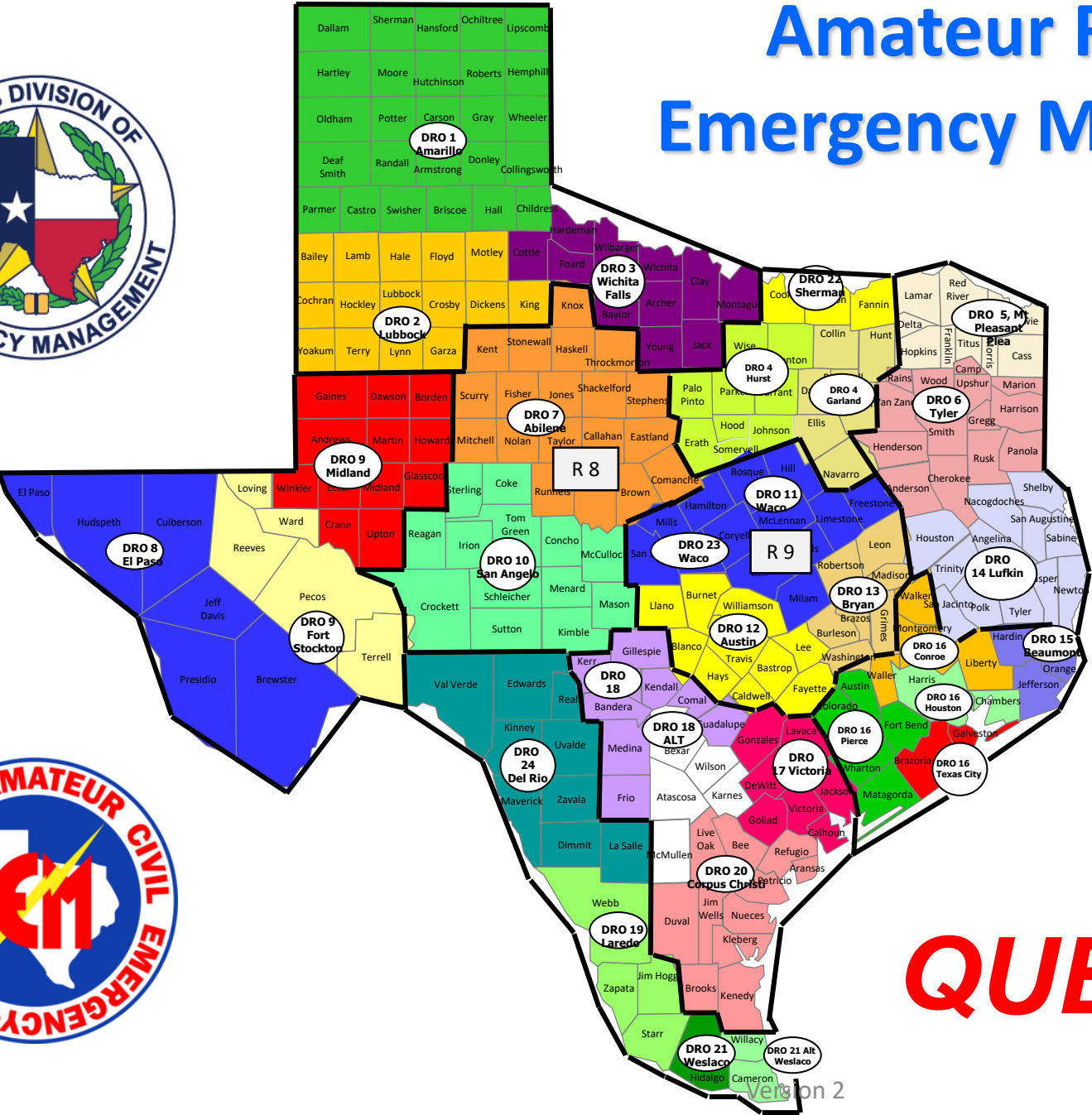
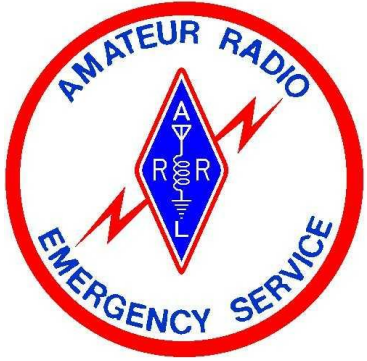


TDEM

THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

Version 2

Amateur Radio Supporting Emergency Management in Texas



QUESTIONS?

