

Shingletown Emergency Radio PLAN.
What Shingletown has that others in California do not have.
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When a Shingletown Emergency Radio Plan - **FIRE NET** (view it as an Emergency Communications Center – SER calls the Net Control for such Net- “FIRE CONTROL”) is activated (e.g., a “Full Activation”) you will notice that multiple Tactical stations are set up. The degree of “set up” is based upon a judgment call – is it an “Area / Neighborhood Activation”? “Partial Lower Level activation? “Moderate Activation? or, a “Full Activation”? The SER Plan was designed by me, to be PROACTIVE, NOT REACTIVE.

For Example during our FIRE NETS (Full Activation) the following have been set up, including: Triangulation station (which is physically mapping the location of the fire, the wind direction at the fire, and wind speed at the fire, and plotting the distance from different areas of Shingletown, etc...); Cal Fire Monitor (monitoring Cal Fire Dispatch); Cal Fire Tactical Monitor (Monitoring Cal fire Ground Teams at Fire; and when we have two fires burning at the same time, that requires a separate station for each Cal Fire Tactical being used); Internet Winds (determines wind direction and wind speed at fire location); Internet Camera(s) (views the cameras that may have a visual of the fire); Ground teams (e.g., having an available station go to established SER look out locations to provide visual reports on a fire as to direction of travel, and/or go to another location to obtain accurate ground reports, etc...); Flight Radar (reporting as to flight radar tracking which shows, inter-alia, Cal Fire Air attack over and/or in route to the fire), etc...).

Thus, a lot of SER Plan net infrastructure is operating to deal with a Shingletown Area Forest Fire (an emergency). When we are short of Hams to help out, one station has to perform multiple tasks. But, even that has its limits. For example, I have acted in all the following positions simultaneously: FIRE CONTROL, also monitoring and communicating on 3 radios, keeping logs, doing triangulation and mapping; and being an Area Coordinator – all during an active Forest Fire. The SER system helped me do that. But, that is a lot to expect from any one person! Also, what if I need to evacuate? Who has practiced the SER Plan and is qualified to coordinate all aspects of the SER Plan and help? That is why the SER Plan continues to ask for help from Hams. It is clear, that the SER plan is actually doing things that most Hams simply don't do; and I submit, don't know how to do. SER Plan continues to be short handed. However, we just need “the few” Hams that are willing to step up.

All of the SER FIRE CONTROL infrastructure is essential to the emergency communications for a Shingletown Area Forest Fire (which is an immediate threat to life and property). The fact that a person may be 15 miles away from the fire playing video games and eating popcorn, doesn't transmute the situation into something less than an immediate threat to life and property for the family who is in the direct path of the fire. Combine that with the fact that, during emergencies, “normal” communication systems fail (they are designed only for “average” traffic, not emergencies). In Shingletown we have in fact had complete communication failures during severe storms when people couldn't call for help, and were trapped by deep snow. Even the Office of Emergency Services was not aware of that dire situation until AFTER the fact. So, you

couldn't dial 911 and you wouldn't get that reverse 911 call, and you couldn't reach anyone (no land line, no cell phones, no internet, no PG&E electricity...)! During our recent "double" Shingletown Area Wildfire event, PG&E shut off all power for a Planned Power Safety Shutoff because of high winds and high fire danger. I don't know if PG&E was even aware that they had just shut off all of Shingletown's power while we had two (2) wild land fires burning at that exact same time (one at each end of Shingletown). But, notwithstanding, the SER FIRE NET was operating, and maintained full operational status throughout the events. This was due to SER Planning (urging Ham stations to set up with backup power / batteries / be prepared for simplex communications, etc...).

The Fire may be 20 miles or more away from FIRE CONTROL. Think about it - Cal Fire doesn't set up a command post for a large fire right at the fire location in Shingletown. This is to avoid themselves being under immediate threat, as well as other factors). Such doesn't render the forest fire anything less than an "emergency". They are still in fact dealing with an immediate threat to life and property directly related to the people of Shingletown.

The SER Plan is for the purpose of providing essential emergency communications to those listening (during an active Forest Fire) so they have REAL TIME INFORMATION. These people can then take proactive methods to alert their neighbors (e.g., going door to door; blasting car horns, etc...). Also, the SER Plan practices relays of emergency traffic and has relayed emergency traffic.

Again, we need more Hams. Any Ham or Non Ham (participating in your neighborhood using your neighborhood Alert and Operations non ham frequencies) can join in. Neighborhoods are linked into the Ham Fire Net by Area Coordinators (Hams linked into their neighborhoods – thus using Ham and Area Non Ham frequencies). Best part, the SER Plan is not a club, and there are no dues. Just join in and follow the Plan. You may notice that during an Emergency, FIRE CONTROL may have to ask for help from Non Hams, in accordance with FCC regulations. So, everyone should be practicing and learning the SER Plan. The SER Plan does have dedicated Hams that are helping. And for that we must all say THANK YOU TO THOSE HAMS!

The Tactical stations are information pipe lines into the FIRE NET (like spokes joining into the Hub of a wheel). The Tactical stations may be dispersed geographically, because we can only obtain help from those who are willing to help – NOW, when it matters. Also, having stations geographically dispersed is an asset. There may be a total Internet and/or communication Failure in Shingletown, but another station, 40 miles away, has internet and can access our SER Tacticals from the Web Page.

Waiting until a fire is at your back door before one mentally stimulates themselves into deciding it is "Now officially an emergency", is not a "Plan". It is stupidity. Under a real plan you should have already set up the infrastructure for the fire at the other end of Shingletown, Not having planned under these emergency facts and circumstances is REACTIONARY PANIC, NOT A PLAN.

The SER Plan goal is to set up the Emergency Net (and its component tacticals) in time so that it does some good, **IN TIME FOR IT TO ACTUALLY MATTER!** People need sufficient meaningful notice so that neighborhoods can take steps to pack up, get teams to pick up disabled neighbors and the elderly, have an orderly evacuation (if such were required), while having information about which roads are blocked, etc... .

The SER system works. BUT, it needs more Hams and Non Hams to help out. Be part of the Shingletown Team. Timely information can be the difference between life and death. Knowing what is happening NOW, can also serve to relieve stress and anxiety. It is urged that everyone view the documentary about the Paradise fire. The link is here:

<https://youtu.be/F3OX1PR2SCM>

Then, step up and be proactive with the Shingletown Emergency Radio Plan.

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Designer / Director

Shingletown Emergency Radio PLAN 73



Paradise Family Fleeing Fire: Credit: Screen shot from posting by Brynn Parrott Chatfield.

Hopefully, in Shingletown, the SER Emergency Communications Plan will assist in evacuating early. Community support is essential.