



Homeland
Security

Fact Sheet

Shared Resources High Frequency Radio Program

What is SHARES? The SHARED RESOURCES (SHARES) High Frequency (HF) Radio Program is a network used to coordinate emergency message communications. SHARES supports Federal, State and Industry organizations by transmitting emergency messages when normal telecommunications systems are destroyed or unavailable. SHARES is open to all Federal departments and agencies and their designated affiliates on a voluntary basis. SHARES provides a service to the Federal emergency response community, as an Emergency Support Function Two (ESF 2, Communications) component that reports to the National Communications System (NCS). Additionally, the SHARES HF Radio Program promotes interoperability between HF radio systems used by Federal departments and agencies and monitors applicable regulatory, procedural, and technical issues.

How Does SHARES Work? The SHARES HF Radio Program is the responsibility of, and is administered by, The National Communication Systems (NCS). Members of the SHARES Program consult the SHARES Handbook to find stations, frequencies and/or Automatic Link Establishment (ALE) addresses of Federal, State and industry organizations they need to communicate/coordinate with during emergency operations. SHARES is available on a 24-hour basis and requires no prior coordination or activation to get messages through. Participating SHARES HF radio stations accept and relay messages until a receiving station is able to deliver the message to the intended addressee. The SHARES Program conducts weekly and quarterly communications exercises designed to provide users with operational knowledge, technical skills, and training in preparation for proficiency during emergencies.

What Else Should I Know?

- Over 1,400 HF radio stations—representing 104 Federal, State, and Industry organizations, located in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and at 23 locations overseas—participate in SHARES
- Nearly 500 emergency planning and response agencies participate in SHARES
- Utilizes multiple Federally assigned high frequency radio channels for use by SHARES members.
- The SHARES HF Interoperability Working Group, made up of 143 members representing 110 organizations, conducts high frequency technical reviews, provides regulatory guidance and direction for administration of the SHARES network, and promotes awareness of new HF radio technologies

For Further Information: Additional information may be obtained by contacting the Manager, NCC at (703) 676-CALL or (866) NCS-CALL, option 4. Fax: (703) 235-5534. Web Site: www.ncs.gov/shares E-mail: NCSSSHARES@dhs.gov. The SHARES Program Office can be contacted at (703) 235-5342.