



Homeland
Security

Fact Sheet

Shared Resources High Frequency Radio Program

What is SHARES? The SHARed RESources (SHARES) High Frequency (HF) Radio Program uses existing HF radio resources used to coordinate communications supporting a network of Federal, State and industry organizations worldwide to pass emergency messages when normal telecommunications communications systems are destroyed or unavailable. Participation in SHARES is open to all Federal departments and agencies and their designated affiliates on a voluntary basis and provides the Federal emergency response community, as an Emergency Support Function Two (ESF 2, Communications) component, with a single interagency emergency message handling and frequency spectrum management system. 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 Manual, 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. It 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. A mechanism to increase the number of stations available and to map those available to support SHARES during an emergency, SHARES Coordination Stations issue notices to stations and then track and confirm stations' on-the-air status.

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 personnel participate in SHARES
- Over 200 high frequency radio channels are available 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 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: NCSSHARES@dhs.gov. The SHARES Program Office can be contacted at (703) 235-5341.