

## August 14, 2019: SHINGLETOWN EMERGENCY RADIO PLAN – FIRE NET ACTIVATED

Late August 14, 2019, there was a tone out from Cal Fire – Shingletown. SER Net station K6PDS, tuned one radio to dedicated monitoring of Cal Fire Dispatch to determine situation while continuing to monitor the SCAN PLAN on another radio. Fire reported in area of Mobile Park Dr. The situation met the criteria for an Emergency SER Net Plan Activation and Long Tone T Alert.

The SER Net was activated on all SER NET SCAN PLAN FREQUENCIES. 5 LONG TONE T ALERTS ARE THE SIGNAL FOR AN EMERGENCY SITUATION. The Fire Net was Activated.

An Active Fire Net was conducted, which included:

1. The Active Fire Net was conducted on 760 (CH 10 – monitoring / CH 55 - transmit).
2. W6iO, KE6PCR, AND KB6BZL monitored Cal Fire Dispatch and reported relevant information into the Fire Net. Great job W6iO, KE6PCR, AND KB6BZL.
3. Cal Fire reporting included: fully engulfed structure fire with spread to the vegetation and reports of explosions in area ... spot fire near Lisa Glenn Court / locked gate; Dozers, water tenders, engines, in route ... some crowning ... live wire down north side of highway (44) ... PG&E contacted as to downed line... .
4. KE6PCR monitored Cal Fire Tac 11, and Reported relevant information into the Fire Net. Great job KE6PCR.
5. Net Control requested all stations to perform a QWA PROCEDURE (Brevity Fire Watch) and report back. Of those Neighborhood Areas reporting back, results were QWA (No Suspect Fire / Smoke / or Embers observed (other than the existing fire - QWK).
6. Request was made for any station to report on conditions in the South East Section of Shasta Forest Village (in the Bambi Area – close to the fire area). Request was made for any station in that area to report (Ham or NON HAM). There was no response from the Bambi Area. Accordingly, KB6BZL volunteered to go mobile and drove into the area. He did a visual mobile search and found heavy smoke on Bambi (near the Water Company) and the air was “still”. Net Control was in radio contact with KB6BZL. A radio relay call was made to 911 to advise of this situation. Great job KB6BZL.
7. KB6BZL also drove up to Shingletown and provided reports as to the situation in Shingletown and at the Fire Scene (equipment on both sides of highway 44, etc...). A suspicious vehicle was observed in the Village Area and radio relay was made to 911 (Vehicle Description and partial plate). Request was made that all station operators be on the look out for any suspicious vehicles and to report, but do not engage.

8. Smoke Check reports were requested by Net Control and stations conducted such at various times to obtain wind directions, smoke smell levels and whether any fire / smoke / or embers were visible . We can use such information to determine if there are any new spot fires and potential areas where the existing fire may spread.

9. The Active Fire Net provided a Hub for information collection and dissemination from multiple sources, in real time, including: Cal Fire Dispatch reports; Cal Fir Tac 11 reports; Mobile Ham radio Unit ground / field observations; radio operators periodic reports for Smoke / Fire / Ember Checks; observations from home locations; and the ability for adjoining Neighborhoods to provide real time Smoke / Fire / Ember Checks as to any new fire threats. Reporting was brief, accurate and concise.

10. Neighborhood Areas responding on Frequency included: Viola; Village; Wilson Hill; Rest Area; Inwood, and Starlite. Other neighborhood areas monitored the reporting (e.g., Hay Flat, Immigrant, etc...).

11. We have learned that multiple Hams and non hams were monitoring and were awakened by the Alerting process and listened to the Active Fire Net, although they may not have transmitted into the Fire Net. Immigrant Area activated its neighborhood net (great job Steve). Inwood activated its neighborhood net and reported into the Fire Net (great job KK6DOO). Starlite was on frequency and reported into the Fire Net (great job AJ6KJ). The Rest Area activated and reported into the Fire Net (great job KN6CYK). The Wilson Hill Area was on frequency and reported into the Fire Net (great job KK6SWE and Beverly). Viola was on frequency and Reported into the Fire Net (great job K6YM). Hay Flat was monitoring and I understand conducted local communications. Great job K6SCR. The Village neighborhood was activated and conducted active mobile ground operations, Net Control function, and communications activity.

12. Hams and Non Hams with whom I have since discussed the Fire Net with had the following to say: the process was very helpful, "it was impressive", "made me aware", "felt very informed", "felt very connected", "went great", the alert tone "woke me up", "heard the alert and was awakened by it", and the Net "let me know what was going on as it was happening".

13. For the Village, this was a high alert. The fire was extremely close, and since the Village only has one point of escape from a fire, timely information is critical. Please join in and help out.

14. The Active Fire Net was deactivated once Cal Fire advised that the fire was in mop up stage. Stations were requested to QSY Scan Plan and their Neighborhood Frequencies.

Thank you to everyone who helped in this vital emergency communication tool.

Nathan K6PDS 73

NOTE: on 8/15/2019 there was another Fire near Dersch Rd & Hyrax Rd (Cottage fire). Stations also conducted operations concerning that fire.