The Old Dominion Emergency Net (ODEN)

The Old Dominion Emergency Net (ODEN) is a Virginia Section ARES and RACES, statewide, communications network consisting of one or more discrete HF nets. ODEN exists to provide backup communications during an emergency for the Commonwealth of Virginia, ensuring statewide emergency interoperability between:

- **The State Emergency Operations Center (EOC)**

- **The EOCs of the Counties and Cities of Virginia**

- **Virginia hospitals and other designated medical centers**

- **State and Federal Government agencies deployed to support the emergency**

- **Non-government agencies supporting the emergency**

- **Ham stations representing the National Traffic System**

- **Others as required**

During an emergency, ODEN and three Section-level HF NTS nets -- the Virginia Sideband Net (VSBN), the Virginia Net Early (VNE), and the Virginia Digital Net (VDN) -- come together to form four discreet HF nets known as the ODEN network. These nets, ODEN, VSBN, VNE, and VDN, become ODEN/A, /B, /C, and /D respectively during an emergency as indicated below.

Net Name	Frequency / Mode	Purpose (can be tailored as required for the emergency)	Net Manager
ODEN /A	Primary: 3947 kHz / LSB Alternate: 7240 kHz / LSB	Principle command net to be used to pass operational traffic between the State EOC and the city/county EOCs, and supported agencies; can be used for other purposes (i.e., H&W traffic, logistics, etc.) if operations permit.	K3EP ODEN NM

ODEN /B	Primary: 3943 kHz / LSB Alternate: 7248 kHz / LSB	Overflow for ODEN/A. Can be used as (1) hospital and medical support net, (2) logistics net, (3) H&W traffic net, as required.	K0IBS VSBN NM
ODEN /C	Primary: 3578.5 kHz / CW Alternate: 7050 kHz / CW	H&W CW traffic net.	KV4AN VNE NM
ODEN /D	Primary: 3578.5 kHz Alternate: 7050 kHz	H&W digital traffic net; can also be used for logistics and/or medical support net. Primary mode is OLIVIA (USB, 4 Tones, Bandwidth 500, & 1300 Hz offset). Alternate modes could include PSK31, MFSK16, and RTTY.	KA3OCS VDN NM

NOTE: Both the /C and /D nets can operate at the same time without interference.

ODEN Standard Operating Procedures

(Where the data listed above differs from the ODEN SOP, this web page takes precedence.)

ODEN Brochure   **(561 kb)**

(Feel free to use this at hamfests / fold into thirds, and place on your display table)

Click here to see the other Virginia Section HF Nets

For further information on ODEN, contact the Net Manager, K3EP.

Training on ODEN

ODEN/A (SSB) and ODEN/D (digital) meets twice a month as indicated below to issue training announcements, practice net procedures, pass real or exercise traffic, and test propagation throughout the State for emergency preparedness. When checking in please give your call, name, ARES/RACES appointment (if any), and if you are using any kind of emergency power, please so state and how long you can operate. We encourage all licensed hams to participate; you do not have to be a member of ARES or RACES to check-in.

ODEN/A	3947 kHz LSB	1st and 3rd Mondays of each month at 1830 hours local
ODEN/D	3578.5 kHz Olivia	2nd and 4th Mondays of each month at 1830 hours local

We are always looking for backup Net Control Stations to make sure the net always runs when scheduled! If interested, either as a full time NCS or as a backup, please contact **K3EP** .

If the Net is scheduled to run and no NCS has shown up (they may be delayed in traffic, have a family emergency, be held over at work, etc.), then you are encouraged to step in and run the net. The script is appended below.

ODEN NET SCRIPT   (2010-07)

(Each NCS may vary the script as necessary)

Net Training Files:

ODEN Net Exercise for October 2, 2006
ODEN Net Exercise for September 18, 2006

*ODEN was established by the VA Section Manager in 1997 as an ARRL Section net
and remains a valuable ARRL resource. Use it!*

Adjacent State/Section Emergency Nets

We all know emergencies do not recognize state boundaries. So for those Virginia cities and counties that border another state, it may be helpful to monitor their frequencies during an emergency (HF and VHF/UHF). The HF SSB frequencies listed below are provided for reference purposes. The frequencies were obtained from the respective section web page and/or the ARRL database based on a listing as a state or section emergency net. However, there is no guarantee these are the current frequencies the respective state will use for a particular emergency.

State	Frequency	Remarks
Kentucky	3888 kHz	3960 kHz listed for NTS traffic net. 3995 kHz is also listed in the ARRL frequency database.
Maryland - DC	3920 kHz	
North Carolina	3923 kHz	7232 kHz is the alternate. 3927 kHz listed for NTS traffic net. Coastal Carolina Emergency Net is 3907 kHz.
Tennessee	3980 kHz	Also used for NTS traffic net.
West Virginia	3865 kHz	Also used for NTS traffic net.

Hurricane Watch Net

Given that Virginia is subject to hurricanes, the HWN is another good HF net to listen to. The HWN is activated whenever a weather system has achieved hurricane status and is within 300 miles of a populated land mass. Data is passed back to WX4NHC, the Amateur Radio station located at the National Hurricane Center in Miami. Check out the HWN web page .

Primary	14.325 MHz	Normal operations
Alternate	3.950 MHz	When conditions are poor