

# **KEYSTONE HORIZON**

## **THE ARRL WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA SECTION FALL 2020 SIMULATED EMERGENCY TEST**

### **OVERVIEW**

THE WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA SECTION FALL SIMULATED EMERGENCY TEST WILL BE CONDUCTED ON SATURDAY 3 OCTOBER 2020 FROM 0930 THRU 1230 HOURS.

ALL COUNTIES IN THE SECTION ARE ASKED TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS EXERCISE. SOME SCENARIO COMPONENTS HAVE BEEN PREVIOUSLY ENGAGED HOWEVER THIS EXERCISE WILL DIFFER FROM PREVIOUS DRILLS AS WE BEGIN TO IMPLEMENT THE USE OF DIGITAL COMMUNICATION MODES INTO OUR SEMI-ANNUAL SUPPORT COMMS ACTIVITIES. THE USE OF THE DIGITAL MODES IS DRIVEN BY OUR SERVED AGENCIES AS THE PREFERRED METHOD TO RELAY NEEDED INFORMATION FROM THE FIELD TO BASE OPERATIONS IN ORDER TO SUPPORT THEIR MISSION FUNCTION. NOTE - ADDITIONAL EXERCISE OPERATIONS ARE AT THE DISCRETION OF PARTICIPATING COUNTIES, HOWEVER IT IS REQUIRED THAT THE PRIMARY COMPONENTS OF THIS EXERCISE BE ADHERED TO.

### **GENERAL SCENARIO**

AT 0930 AM, THE EXERCISE WILL BEGIN WITH PARTICIPATING COUNTIES OPENING THEIR SKYWARN NETS DUE TO REPORTS OF SEVERE WEATHER IN THEIR AREAS AND SEVERE WEATHER WARNINGS FROM THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE.

OBSERVED LATE SEASON SEVERE WEATHER (HIGH WINDS, HEAVY RAINFALL AND TWO POSSIBLE TORNADOS) HAVE CAUSED NUMEROUS POWER OUTAGES, ROAD CLOSURES DUE TO DOWNED TREES AND UTILITY LINES PLUS FLASH FLOODING REQUIRING THOSE IN LOW LYING AREAS TO SEEK EMERGENCY SHELTER. THERE HAVE ALSO BEEN REPORTS OF INJURIES FROM SEVERE WEATHER RELATED INCIDENTS.

## **RESPONSE ACTIVITIES**

- ARES TEAMS WILL BE NEEDED AT AMERICAN RED CROSS SHELTERS TO RELAY NEEDED INFORMATION BETWEEN THE SHELTERS AND A.R.C. HEADQUARTERS OPERATIONS.

- ARES TEAMS WILL BE NEEDED TO MONITOR WEATHER CONDITIONS FOR REPORTING TO THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE WHEN CALLED.

- ARES TEAMS WILL BE NEEDED TO ASSIST LOCAL FIRE DEPARTMENTS WITH ROAD CLOSURES AND REPORTS OF FLASH FLOODING AS DOWNED UTILITY LINES HAVE COMPROMISED ELECTRICITY AND TELEPHONE SERVICE.

DURING EXERCISE OPERATIONS, EACH PARTICIPATING COUNTY WILL HAVE A NET CONTROL STATION DIRECTING THE EFFORTS OF THEIR ARES TEAMS AND RELAYING MESSAGES TO AND FROM THE FIELD AS WELL AS TWO WAY MESSAGE HANDLING (RADIOGRAM AND DIGITAL) WITH DESIGNATED STATIONS.

AT 1230PM THE EXERCISE WILL SECURE AND FIELD TEAMS CAN RETURN TO THEIR STAGING AREAS FOR DEBRIEF AND RETURN HOME.

## **OPERATIONS**

**COUNTY** VHF/UHF OPERATIONS WILL BE EITHER REPEATER OR SIMPLEX FROM NET CONTROL TO THE FIELD TEAMS. NOTE-- COUNTY NET CONTROLS ARE ENCOURAGED TO ESTABLISH COMMUNICATIONS WITH THEIR NEIGHBORING COUNTIES BY EITHER REPEATER OR SIMPLEX.

COUNTY ARES FIELD OPERATIONS WILL INCLUDE TWO-WAY DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM FIELD TEAMS AT RED CROSS SHELTERS TO NET CONTROL STATIONS. NET CONTROL STATIONS WILL ALSO SEND TWO-WAY DIGITAL MESSAGES WITH W3SO AND NARC.

COUNTY NET CONTROL STATIONS WILL ALSO SEND AND RECEIVE TWO-WAY RADIOGRAM TRAFFIC VIA HF WITH K3MJW.

**HF** TWO-WAY RADIOGRAM MESSAGING WILL BE ON 3.983 INBOUND TO AND 3.973 OUTBOUND FROM K3MJW SKYVIEW RADIO SOCIETY

**DIGITAL** MESSAGING FROM COUNTY NET OPERATIONS TO W3SO AND NARC. NBEMS INFO IS IN THE EXERCISE ICS-205. COUNTY ARES FIELD DIGITAL COMMS MAY ALSO EMPLOY THE USE OF THE ANDROID APP **AndFlmsg** FOR VHF P2P MESSAGING.

**DMR** OPERATIONS WILL BE ON THE 31422 W.PA. TALKGROUP FOR SKYWARN WEATHER REPORTING. AT THE BEGINNING OF THE EXERCISE COUNTY NET CONTROL STATIONS WILL CHECK IN WITH THEIR RESPECTIVE NWS OFFICE (PITTSBURGH OR STATE COLLEGE) TO INFORM THE NWS THEY HAVE BEGUN SKYWARN NET OPS. DURING THE EXERCISE EACH COUNTY NET CONTROL WILL BE CALLED BY NWS SEVERAL TIMES VIA DMR TO RELAY LOCAL WEATHER CONDITIONS.

DMR TALKGROUP 31420 WILL ALSO BE MONITORED BY THE DIGITAL NET STATIONS FOR TERTIARY MESSAGING.

### **MESSAGING**

PARTICIPATING COUNTY NET CONTROL STATIONS ARE ASKED TO SEND AND RECEIVE THREE VHF DIGITAL P2P MESSAGES FROM RED CROSS SHELTER FIELD TEAMS AND THREE DIGITAL MESSAGES WITH DIGITAL NET STATION BY EITHER ICS-213 FORM OR RADIOGRAM. NOTE - REPLY MESSAGING IS IMPORTANT TO RELAY AN ACKNOWLEDGEMENT BACK TO FIELD OPERATIONS PER SERVED AGENCY NEEDS.

EACH PARTICIPATING COUNTY IS ASKED TO SEND AND RECEIVE THREE HF PHONE RADIOGRAM MESSAGES WITH K3MJW. NOTE - REPLY MESSAGING IS IMPORTANT TO RELAY AN ACKNOWLEDGEMENT BACK TO FIELD OPERATIONS PER SERVED AGENCY NEEDS. THESE PHONE MESSAGES CAN BE REGARDING GENERAL INFORMATION OR LOCAL AGENCY REQUESTS.

### **REPORTING**

PLEASE SEND ARES-001 PUBLIC SERVICE ACTIVITY REPORTS TO DISTRICT ECs IN A TIMELY MANNER. PLEASE ALSO INCLUDE A LOG OF NEIGHBORING COUNTIES CONTACTED FOR INTEROPERATION CAPABILITIES.

PLEASE SEND STATION ACTIVITY REPORTS FOR ALL RADIOGRAM TRAFFIC TO W3YNX VIA THE W.PA. PHONE TRAFFIC NET DAILY ON 3.983KHZ AT 6PM LOCAL TIME. STATION ACTIVITY REPORTS (IN RADIOGRAM FORMAT) CONSIST OF THE STATION CALL SIGN, MESSAGE NUMBER, NUMBER OF MESSAGES SENT, NUMBER RECEIVED AND NUMBER DELIVERED.

**IN SUMMARY...**

THIS EXERCISE (EMERGENCY SHELTER VISITS/SKYWARN OPS/INTERCOUNTY CONTACTS/DIGITAL MESSAGING/HF RADIOGRAMS/ DMR OPS) WILL BRING NEW CHALLENGES FOR SOME...BE IT NEW OPERATING MODES OR THE FIRST TIME PARTICIPATING IN AN EMERGENCY EXERCISE. LET'S ALL BE OPEN MINDED AND PATIENT AS WE WORK AND LEARN TOGETHER TO HONE OUR COMMUNICATIONS SKILLS TO GET THE MESSAGE THRU FOR THE AGENCIES THAT WE SERVE. REMEMBER - WE'RE ALL ON THE SAME TEAM.

THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR TIME, EFFORTS AND SERVICE IN MAKING FOR A SUCCESSFUL FALL SIMULATED EMERGENCY TEST!

73 AND PRESS ON!

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**ATTACHMENTS**

ICS 205 SECTION OPERATIONS	RADIOGRAM FORM
W.PA. SECTION SIMPLEX PLAN	ICS-213 FORM
ARES-001 FORM	

