



2007 Tornado Drill Review

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Exercise Scenario



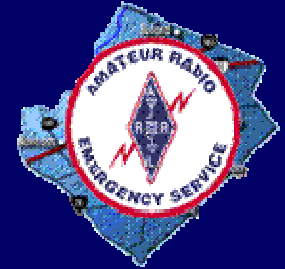
- Simulate ARES support of weather event
- Respond to activation by county EMA
- Provide communications support between multiple locations
- Practice traffic handling capabilities
- Introduce new requirements for communications support
- Task Planning Committee with event pre-planning

Exercise Design



- Exercise scenario designed by Ed Woodrick, WA4YIH
- Three of ARES leadership to simulate served agency representatives or Incident Commanders
- ARES to receive notification of alert status on Friday evening
- Activation on Saturday morning with complete deployment instructions
- Begin operational and handling traffic two hours after activation

The Exercise Unfolds



- **Planning Committee conference call on Wednesday evening for pre-planning**
 - Exercise Leader appointed by AEC – Response Teams
 - Resources determined to support severe weather event
 - Identify possible equipment resources required
 - Frequency planning issues determined

- **ARES receives activation alert from EMA on Friday evening**
 - Paging notification sent
 - Resource net activated to assess personnel availability
 - Team leaders advised to contact team members

Exercise Activation



- Page sent at 0645 for 0700 activation and 2m net
- 2m Resource Net activated at 0700 by Net Manager
- EC provided event information and locations to support and team assignments
- Simplex operation specified due to distance between sites
- Site information provided to teams with mode and frequency assignments
- Order given to report to sites at 0800 and be operational by 0900

Locations Supported



- Simulated tornado damage area near I-985 and GA 20
- Command Post established at Fire Station 20 behind Mall of Georgia
- Missing Persons area established in Costco parking lot across from Mall (1 mile from Command Post)
- Staging/Dispatch area setup at Fire Station 18 near Hamilton Mill (5 miles from Command Post)



ARES Response



- **EOC and East Response Team assigned to Command Post**
 - UHF simplex voice to Missing Persons
 - VHF simplex voice to Staging/Dispatch
 - Point-to-point Packet to Missing Persons

- **North Response Team to Staging/Dispatch**
 - VHF simplex voice to Command Post
 - Optional point-to-point Packet to Command Post

- **MCF and South Response Teams deploy at Missing Persons**
 - UHF simplex voice to Command Post
 - Point-to-point Packet to Command Post

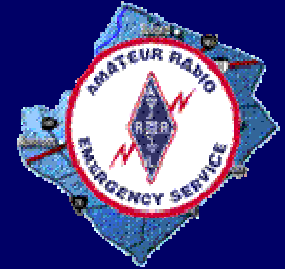
Exercise Statistics



- 19 ARES members responding plus 3 members serving as Served Agency
- 150 names passed from Missing persons to Command Post requesting status
- 60 dispatch requests sent from Command Post to Staging with confirmation of dispatched vehicles returned



Exercise Successes



- Leadership Team accomplished pre-planning tasks
- Substitution of Exercise Leader at last minute with minimal impact
- ARES supplied sufficient resources for short notice deployment (deployed by Response Team)
- Traffic originated within 2 hours of activation
- Good use of Resource Net for assignments and movement of personnel
- Established reliable communications on simplex over limited area (no NCS required with P2P links)
- Seamless transition to backup voice frequency after simulated interference introduced (2nd Backup frequency created and tested)
- Good use of headphones

Lessons Learned



- "I need to remember to bring that ___ next time"
- Additional options for Packet needed (keyboard-to-keyboard, file transfer, email)
- Ensure all radio and packet equipment tested in advance
- More advance preparation needed by some to arrive on site earlier
- Chopped audio – key, pause then speak
- Shift changes require good handoff and briefing
- Ensure Net Control has alternate operator assigned

Future Exercises



- Spring and Fall field exercises to be planned
- Tabletop exercises conducted to emphasize specific areas
- Field Day in June
- Full Simulated Emergency Test (SET) in October
- Response Team mini-activities

Thanks to Participating ARES Members



- **ARES Leadership (as Served Agency)**
 - WB4ODX, WA4DYD, WA4YIH
- **EOC Team**
 - KF4PWI, KG4IUM
- **MCF Team**
 - KI4CSM, N4EEE, KD4O EZ
- **North Response Team**
 - KE4IKF, K14KXO
- **West Response Team**
 - N9SXJ, WB2OGY
- **South Response Team**
 - WA4ZXV, WA4ITI
- **East Response Team**
 - WA2CBM, WA4HCE, KI4MEH, KC4LU, K14NFW
- **Net Management**
 - K2HJ, N2DLJ
- **Not Yet Assigned to Team**
 - KA4YZR

