

## 2014 Simulated Emergency test (SET) Boone County ARES® (BCARES)

The Boone County Amateur Radio Emergency Services (BCARES) net was called into operation on November 15, 2014 in commencement of the 2014 Simulated Emergency Test. The SET scenario consisted of a severe wind storm disrupting commercial power and commercial communications infrastructure. A total of 21 amateur radio operators volunteered to assist with communications.

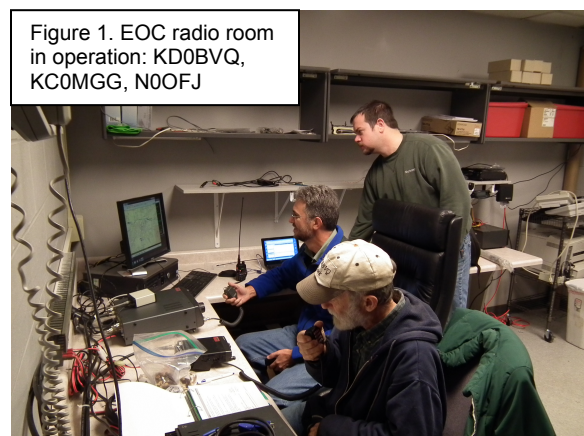


Figure 1. EOC radio room in operation: KD0BVQ, KC0MGG, N0OFJ

Simulating power and communications infrastructure disruptions, the net was called on HVTac-6F, 146.505 MHz simplex, and all amateur radio operations were conducted on emergency power. The net control was handled from the Emergency Operations Center (EOC), located in the Boone County Fire Protection District Headquarters. The EOC facilities include HF/VHF/UHF radios, including APRS mapping display and Winlink VHF and HF (Winmor) email by radio (Figure 1). BCARES maintains several mobile stand-alone APRS Trackers which were deployed in the SET to show locations of specified operators. Display of our APRS stations was presented at the EOC for incident command information (Figure 2).

The SET included operations on site at the EOC, University Hospital, Women's and Children's Hospital, Boone County Public Health, Calloway Public Health (adjoining county to the East of Boone), and operations from mobiles located at Boone County Public Works, Red Cross office, Boone Hospital Center, Boone County Fire Protection District Station #1, Joint Communications Center, three simulated Red Cross Shelters, and two Rovers. Additionally, three home stations were employed including one in Howard County (Northwest adjoining county) plus one in Hallsville and Columbia. Contacts/messages were made/sent on two repeaters in adjoining counties,

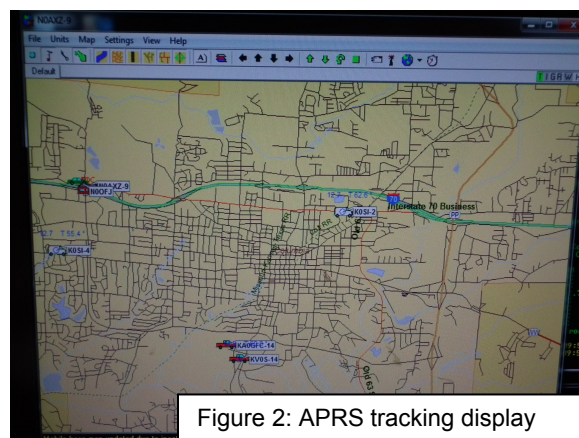


Figure 2: APRS tracking display

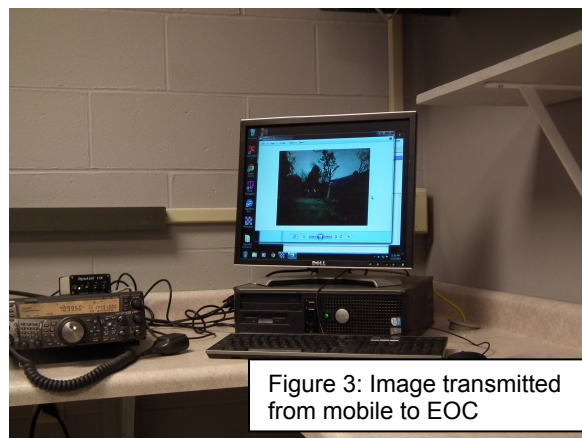


Figure 3: Image transmitted from mobile to EOC

Fulton (Callaway county) and Linn (Osage county) from our relay stations. Three email messages were sent from two Winlink stations, including the EOC to the Red Cross, and the SEC and DEC. Two files were transferred RMSExpress Peer-to-Peer, including one picture showing storm damage (Figure 3). Another file transfer from a mobile to EOC was unsuccessful. Simplex coverage was excellent within County and a majority of stations were received by the Calloway Public Health station, as well. Shelter to Shelter contact on a second simplex frequency was not successful due to the limited coverage of the HT radio, and no available relay. This was to be expected given the

distance between shelters. The Test was very successful especially demonstrating our coverage and excellent participation by BCARES members: many thanks to all participants. N0AXZ- EC