Boone County ARES

SIMULATED EMERGENCY TEST

PLAYER HANDBOOK

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BCARES - EC

Participants Handbook

Purpose

This handbook provides the participants with information required to participate effectively in the exercise. This information is also discussed at the participants briefings/orientations conducted prior to the start of exercise. The participants are encouraged to ask questions concerning their roles and responsibilities and the rules of exercise.

SCOPE

The exercise is intended to test and demonstrate communications capabilities of BCARES in support of our served agencies in their service of an emergency situation.

The Exercise will be on 14 November beginning at 9:00 AM and ending before 12:00 as determined by the exercise leader. Exercise may end before this if the exercise leader determines that all objectives and performance criteria (anticipated actions) have been sufficiently addressed. The exercise will primarily take place in, but not be limited to, Boone County, Missouri.

Quoting from the American Radio Relay League (ARRL) *The Amateur Radio Emergency Service Manual*:

6.1 Purpose of SET
- To determine strengths and weaknesses, in an exercise environment, of ARES groups at local and section levels.
- To provide a public demonstration of Amateur Radio Service capabilities to partner organizations and agencies during times of emergency or disaster.
- To help radio amateurs gain experience in communications using standard procedures and a variety of modes under simulated emergency conditions.

Concept of Exercise

The scenario will require activation of the EOC at the time of the start of the exercise. BCARES may be required at Joint Communications Center, area hospitals, and several served agencies' locations as needed. Deployment of BCARES members is expected at the beginning of the exercise.

Scenario Narrative

The exercise scenario will be a serious tornado bringing down much of the power and communications infrastructure of Columbia.

Participants should be prepared to engage in an exercise that tests their ability to meet the Exercise Objectives stated below. You should anticipate the requirement of emergency power and interactions with the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) on 2M simplex.

More details of the scenario will be disclosed as the exercise progresses.

Exercise Objectives

General guidelines for the SET are given at the following ARRL web link:
        http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Public%20Service/ARES/ARESmanual2015.pdf

In addition to the SET purposes outlined on the ARRL website we will establish the following specific Exercise Objectives:

(1) Establish emergency communications (both voice and data) within and between the
locations of our served agencies participating in the exercise – to include fixed, mobile, and field-deployed stations.

(2) Encourage the use of emergency power (battery, generator, and/or mobile) by all
stations during the exercise.

(3) Maximize the number of amateur radio participants.

(4) Identify critical gaps in our coverage area and responsiveness to agencies' needs, including **digital**
ICS 213 messaging among stations.

(5) Pass appropriate traffic via NTS relays.

(6) Incorporate appropriate elements of NIMS/ICS to the degree possible.

(7) The exercise is designed to stress our system. Failures may occur by design or by circumstances of
the exercise, and our abilities to react appropriately to achieve communications is to be recorded.

Exercise Artificialities

It is recognized that certain artificialities and constraints detract from exercise realism. However, exercise participants are to accept the following artificialities as a means of facilitating the accomplishment of the exercise objectives and performance criteria.

- The exercise will be playing in real-time with the exception of the EOC being activated and staffed at the start of the exercise.

- Many of the alert, notification, and initial activation activities will be a part of the exercise.

Exercise Simulation

Simulation during this functional exercise is required to compensate for non-participating organizations, individuals, and field units that would actually be deployed in a real-world response. Although simulations may detract from exercise realism, the simulated incidents, (messages from and to simulated entities) provide the means to facilitate exercise and provide for the testing of exercise objectives and performance criteria.

All persons, agencies, response units, and citizens of the community, and various levels of government, will be represented as needed, by the exercise simulation articles. As the exercise is being experienced in a real-time environment, the simulation team will advise the participants

of information such as when the resource(s) arrives on site, the situation found upon their arrival, and so on.

Scripts for participants to use in their respective assignments will be provided for simulation of events and needs consistent with such emergency responses of our exercise.

Participants Procedures and Responsibilities

Primary participants in this exercise will be licensed amateur radio operators providing emergency communications support in accordance with the protocols, procedures, frequency plans, and other guidance as detailed in the ARES® Manual 2015.

All voice exchanges should begin and end with the phrase "**This is a test.**" Written messages should contain the word "**Test**" as part of the precedence, e.g., Test Priority, in the message preamble or subject line. Written messages should also include the phrase "**This is a test**" as the first words in the text (or body) of the message.

Should an actual emergency occur at any time during the exercise that dictates that the exercise should stop, the phrase "**Real World**" (preferably repeated three times) shall be used to indicate that exercise is suspended until further notice or until the emergency is resolved.

Deployment: SEE ICS 205A
Radio operators will be deployed as net check occurs and will generally follow the plan outlined in ICS 205A, Appendix A.

Safety and Security

Participants should observe reasonable personal safety procedures and refrain from anything close to dangerous operations in the exercise situations. After all, **THIS IS A TEST.**

Communications

The BCARES net will be called on the simplex frequency for our region, HVTac-6F, 146.505 MHz at about 9:00 AM. NCS will be EOC. All players should check-in for assignments.

When checking in stations will indicate if they have emergency power and if they can be deployed with mobile/portable radios for the emergency exercise.

Tactical call signs will be **assigned** at check-in and used to facilitate message handling..

Digital message handling will use Winlink/RMS Express to send and receive exercise traffic between stations P2P) and via VHF/HF to Winlink nodes for email messages.

Stations deployed must maintain communications with NCS, or designee, throughout the exercise and including a **final contact** as they arrive at their home QTH following all exercise activities, to insure their safety.

See ICS 205, Appendix B for operational Communications Plan.

Reporting

Stations participating should keep written logs of activity including evaluations and observations that will be valuable in improving BCARES performance in future drills or real exercises. These data will be collected and discussed in following BCARES monthly meetings.

ICS 214 is supplied with this package, Appendix C.

Acknowledgements

NOTES:

Appendix A
ICS 205A Communications List

Appendix B
ICS 205 Incident Radio Communications Plan

Appendix C
ICS 214 Activity Log