

Jan 19, 2013 ARES/RACES Drill Instructions Sent by Packet

Overview

The overall objectives of this drill included:

1. Test simplex communications, including the use of relays, by simulating a failure of key repeater sites.
2. Test connectivity to and usage of the secondary packet BBS systems. Although no packet BBS system was taken offline or modified in any way for this drill, we stated that everybody's primary BBS had failed, forcing everyone to use their secondary BBS assignment. This had the additional benefit of making sure packet users knew how to address packets in a failure scenario.

The scenario used a "coronal mass ejection" impacting the earth causing widespread power outages. The drill ran from 1400 to 1600 hours. This document describes the messages that were sent via packet along with the time that they were distributed.

Two of the messages were sent to the XSCEVENT bulletin area. This bulletin area would be the usual location for posting situation updates and operating instructions during a real emergency incident or public service event.

One of the messages was sent to the specific EOC tactical call mailbox on the assigned alternate BBS for each EOC. This was done to insure that each agency checked into their alternate BBS and was able to receive messages there.

Time: 13:45

To: XSCEVENT bulletin area

Subject: 2013-01-19 Pre-Drill Instructions

--- DRILL TRAFFIC ---

Approximately 12 hours ago, a coronal mass ejection hit the earth, knocking out power across Santa Clara County. All amateur radio systems have been operating on emergency power since that time.

Voice Instructions:

Emergency power at many repeater sites is failing. Use 147.540 simplex for the Message Net. Back-up frequency for the Message Net is 146.535 simplex. The Command Net repeater is operational.

Packet Instructions:

As you read this message, the emergency power source for your primary BBS has just failed. Also, the emergency power source for the primary BBS for all other agencies has failed. Therefore all agencies will be switching to their secondary BBS for the remainder of this drill.

- 1) Connect to your secondary BBS. For BBS assignment information, consult the SCCo Packet Tactical Calls bulletin. For frequency information, consult the SCCo Packet Frequencies bulletin.
- 2) EOCs Only: When you connect to your secondary BBS, you will receive additional instructions addressed to your EOC tactical call. Follow them carefully and completely.
- 3) EOCs Only: If you have questions, use the bulletins mentioned above. All of the information you need is contained in those bulletins. As a last resort, you can use the Command Net to request help. Ask for "packet support".

--- DRILL TRAFFIC ---

Time: 13:45

To: Individual primary tactical call mailboxes of each agency on their alternate BBS

Subject: 2013-01-19 Drill Instructions

--- DRILL TRAFFIC ---

Operating note for EOCs:

As you operate, be sure to watch for additional information that may be posted to the XSCEVENT bulletin area. This is where updates will normally be posted during real events/incidents. Outpost will automatically check this bulletin area each time you connect to a BBS. Connecting once every 15-20 minutes should be sufficient to keep you up to date.

Task List for EOCs:

1) Send a check-in message to the county EOC. Include the following information:

-- Windows Operating System Version: (Example: Win7, WinXP, Win2000, etc.)

-- Browser Type and Version: (Example: Firefox v18.0, Internet Explorer v9.0, etc.)

-- Outpost Version: (In Outpost, go to Help > About Outpost)

Remember that the county is also operating on its secondary BBS so you will need to address your messages to their secondary address. For addressing and BBS assignment information, consult the SCCo Packet Tactical Calls bulletin.

2) Send a City Scan form via packet to the county EOC summarizing the situation within your agency's area of responsibility. Feel free to be creative. Be sure to include "DRILL TRAFFIC" in your message.

3) Send a Logistics Request form via packet to the county EOC. Again, creativity is encouraged. Be sure to include "DRILL TRAFFIC" in your message.

4) Send an ICS-213 Message form via packet to the county EOC. List the call sign and first and last name of all drill participants in your agency.

5) Follow any additional instructions you may receive from the county EOC.

--- DRILL TRAFFIC ---

Time: 15:00

To: XSCEVENT bulletin area

Subject: 2013-01-19 End of Drill Packet Instructions

--- DRILL TRAFFIC ---

All Agency EOCs:

Prior to shutting down your packet station at the end of the drill:

- 1) Switch back to your primary BBS.
- 2) Send a checkout message to the county EOC. Note: you will be sending from your primary BBS but the county will still be on their secondary BBS.

Thank you for your participation.

--- DRILL TRAFFIC ---