Turn on Station for Packet Message Reception and Sending

1. Computer, Printer, Display
2. Start software program on computer for PK-xx communications
3. Radio set power supply, middle 220 radio, and packet unit (inside case, switch is on lower front of black triple radio kit.
4. TNC Power

Set up radio

1. Tune to correct frequency, SIMPLEX
2. Set volume control to 2nd mark.
3. Be sure the Y cable is connected between the radio and two jacks on the black radio case
4. Verify packet via a power cycle on the packet unit only, not the radio, to see the welcome message. It will say AEA PK90 and some details about the firmware.

"Connect" to the remote station and send a message

1. Whether you will communicate to another simple station or to a packet bulletin board, enter the connect command OR use the connect line on the software, entering the call sign of the destination. The LAHEOC already has the callsign for itself loaded.
2. When you see a reply indicating you are connected, type a line of text and push enter. Your message will appear at the other station.

RIMS reports

1. This is a damage assessment text report prepared off line. Ask a city manager appointed official for the contents of the report.
2. Run the RIMS report software and enter the answers to questions. They appear in about 10 groups of about 7 questions each. If you don't know an answer, just leave it blank by pressing enter. When all the answers are complete, the RIMS software automatically makes a computer file.
3. To send this file, 'attach' it to a packet message sent to Santa Clara County EOC

Bulletin Board Operation

1. The Ham Packet Bulletin Board allows many connections to occur at once. The county operations center will post messages there for towns including LAH. Plan to read these regularly during an emergency, at least every 15 minutes.
2. Connect to the Bulletin Board. When connected, as indicated on the computer, enter one of the displayed commands. The system is similar to an electronic mail system that prompts you.
3. Entering "?" will provide a list of available commands to you.

For your observers: Packet radio provides a rapid way to move very detailed information much more quickly than via voice messages. It automatically leaves an audit trail for the messages recorded on the computers at both ends. Hard copy messages are easy to exchange with emergency officials. It provides a degree of security. Packet uses a Terminal Node Controller (TNC) between a standard computer and a ham radio.

Troubleshooting Packet at LAHEOC

1. If the computer will not display a packet greeting when you recycle the power on the TNC, no communications is possible. The problem rests with either the computer, the data cable from the computer to the TNC inside the radio case, or the TNC, in that order of likelihood. Check these; if unsuccessful, get help. Local help is available from EC Rick Ellinger, AEC Paul Simon or from Los Altos
2. If the TNC greeting appears, but the station will not connect to the distant station, check the audio volume control on the radio (usually set too high),
3. Verify station identification is set properly at LAHEOC with a MYCALL command,
4. Verify the county is on line properly with a call via voice on the resource net.
5. Verify you can "read the traffic" by seeing other stations communicate to the county.
6. Verify you have a signal on the air by tuning another radio to the packet frequency and listening.
7. Alternatively, reconnect the TNC to another radio and listen with another radio for transmit output from the TNC/radio combination.
8. Try a connection to LAEOC, our neighbors.
9. Ask for digi-peater or relay help.