

Simulated Emergency Test Information

The Metropolitan Emergency Communications Council (MECC) will be holding its' annual Simulated Emergency Test (SET) November 1st from 0800 to 1400 hours. The exercise scenario will be a loss of the telephone central office for each facility requiring them to send all messages and data via amateur radio. This scenario is somewhat the same as last year's but with the inclusion of the balance of the Missouri Region A facilities, an expansion of the data objective and the addition of an objective for the HF capabilities that are now available in all the rural facilities and some of the Metro facilities.

This exercise involves 3 groups, the hospitals and other health care facilities, the local emergency management office, and the local ARES/RACES group plus other hams as required or as have been recruited by the facilities to support their stations. Groups from NE Kansas and Region A Missouri as well as the KC metro area will be participating. They will start by sharing their diversion status and bed poll data. Then they will test their ability to hear each other directly by simplex and then for those who have it, High Frequency contacts.

We are holding a planning meeting as part of the State of Missouri Crisis Communications Conference at 6pm on October 9th in the main meeting room. The conference is being held at the Sheraton Hotel at I-70 and Blue Ridge Cutoff across the highway from the Truman Sports Complex. We'll confirm who the players are and explain in detail how the objectives of the exercise will be met.

This exercise will be HSEEP compliant and we will be handing out a draft of the Exercise Plan (ExPlan) at the planning meeting. There are no "unknown" injects so the entire plan is open for all to see. Attached to this memo is a list of the objectives and the evaluation elements. There will be procedural details in the ExPlan on each of these elements.

It is important that someone from each of the three player groups participate in this meeting if possible. If not then we ask that at least one person attend and provide contact information for the other points of contact so that they can be emailed or called with additional information. At the very least please reply to this email and confirm your interest in participating or that your facility or group cannot play. Please feel free to forward this memo to others who might be interested in participating as well.

We look forward to your participation and if you have any questions please give one of us a call.

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MECC SET EXERCISE OBJECTIVES

Objective 1

- Replicate the EMResource diversion data using amateur radio and communicate this information with other healthcare entities and EMS agencies.

Objective 2

- Replicate the EMResource bed poll data using amateur radio and communicate with other healthcare entities and EMS agencies.

Objective 3

- Demonstrate the ability of amateur radio to provide voice communications between emergency response entities without any existing infrastructure.

Objective 4

- Demonstrate the ability to send emails from and back to hospitals using amateur radio to access the Internet.

Objective 5

- Send messages outside the jurisdictional area using amateur radio long distance capabilities.

EVALUATION METRICS:

Objective 1

- Replicate the EMResource diversion data using amateur radio and communicate this information with other healthcare entities and EMS agencies.

Hospitals

1. Is there permanently installed amateur radio equipment?
2. Can the communications system support an on-demand, real time, voice and data?
3. Can the system contact the local Emergency Management by amateur radio?
4. Collect diversion data on appropriate form
5. Pass diversion data to local EMA net
6. Collect regional diversion data from local EMA net

Emergency Management

1. Collect local hospital diversion data and relay to regional net
2. Collect complete diversion data from regional net and pass to local hospitals

Regional Operations Center

1. Collect local diversion data and redistribute to all local nets

EVALUATION METRICS:

Objective 2

- Replicate the EMResource bed poll data using amateur radio and communicate with other healthcare entities and EMS agencies.

Hospitals

1. Collect bed poll data on appropriate form
2. Pass bed poll data to local EMA net
3. Collect regional bed poll data from local EMA net

Emergency Management

1. Collect local hospital bed poll data and relay to regional net
2. Collect complete bed poll data from regional net and pass to local hospitals

Regional Operations Center

1. Collect local diversion data and redistribute to all local nets

EVALUATION METRICS:

Objective 3

- Demonstrate the ability of amateur radio to provide voice communications between emergency response entities without any existing infrastructure.

Hospitals

1. Contact EMA direct, without repeater, on designated 2 meter frequency
2. Contact EMA direct, without repeater, on designated UHF meter frequency
3. Contact EMA direct, without repeater, on designated 6 meter frequency
4. Identify all stations heard and record signal strength

Emergency Management

1. Collect list from each hospital of stations heard
2. Pass information of stations heard to regional net

Regional Operations Center

1. Collect local EMA lists of stations heard

EVALUATION METRICS:

Objective 4

- Demonstrate the ability to send emails from and back to hospitals using amateur radio to access the Internet.

Hospitals

1. Establish connection to Winlink node that has Internet access
2. Send email to ??? Request reply
3. Copy email to EMA net email address

Emergency Management

1. Collect list of each hospital who sent an email
2. Pass copy of email to regional net

Regional Operations Center

1. Collect local EMA lists of stations heard

EVALUATION METRICS:

Objective 5

- Send messages outside the jurisdictional area using amateur radio long distance capabilities.

Hospitals

1. Identify appropriate amateur radio high frequency band given current conditions
2. Attempt to establish contact with desired station direct
3. Lacking direct contact establish contact with a relay station that can pass traffic to desired station
4. Confirm receipt of message
5. Attempt to contact other regional hospitals
6. Send list of stations that contact was made with to EMA

Emergency Management

1. Monitor HF traffic
2. Collect lists from hospitals of messages sent
3. Send list to Regional net

Regional Operations Center

1. Collect local EMA lists of stations heard