

NH-ARES SET

17 Nov 2007

It will be on Saturday Nov. 17 beginning at 0830L. It will end at 1300L or sooner, if you complete the tasks quickly! At 0830L we will all begin working in our own areas to achieve the goals listed below, using the assumptions/conditions listed below.

WE WILL NOT USE ANY CALL UP TREES, JUST START HAVING FUN AND START

COMMUNICATING AT 0830L

Start thinking about the problems and the solutions.

What we are practicing:

1. How do we request, and logistically, guide an outside emcomm person to where he/she is needed?
2. How do we communicate with our neighbors to ask for help?
3. Where are our Point(s) of Distribution (PODs) located if there was all Hazards activation for the state?
PODs are the sites determined by your All Hazards Regional Planning group as sites suitable for attending to the needs of the population in a health emergency such as Pandemic Flu or Bioterrorism, Inoculations, medications, and more.

Assumptions:

No phone or internet service, except for NH HSEM communicating with the EMDs and that is slow. The phones are flooded with calls! No state government leadership/support so no EOC/NH HSEM is available to the small communities. They are overwhelmed.

The emergency spans the entire State of NH.

Repeaters are generally busy with traffic and too busy to be used when simplex could be used instead.

Commercial power is intact, but may go down unexpectedly.

Every NH ARES area/group needs help from another group or area. The State has initiated the All Hazards Plan. All of the PODS are being brought into service throughout the State of NH.

There is no telephone communications between the local hospitals and the "PODS" and it is desperately needed, as they did not drill for the phones being flooded.

No hams from your area are available to staff your PODs. All Red Team members will give priority to staffing their local group's needs. The ARES Communication Officer (ACO) can ask any Local ARES Coordinator (LAC) to assign a member of the Red team to help him.

The SEC and his leadership team are intact, but they cannot be at NH HSEM.

Goals:

- 1.) Successfully request help from outside your area, and have deployed and in place TWO to THREE Amateur Radio Emcomm communicators with appropriate equipment at your area's PODS. Those assigned cannot be part of your group. They need to have been assigned to you by an outside LAC. These 2 - 3 hams must be part of another emcomm group. Start your search from the closest neighboring areas and then work your way out, if you need to.

The requested help must actually drive to and arrive at the PODS. So, SGARES would need to get two to three emcomm capable hams from outside of SGARES (people not on the local call up list) to drive to the

PODS in the SGARES district. (There are three PODs in SGARES). They need to have arrived and to have successfully checked into the 2m local net and be ready to pass traffic. (From their car is fine) It would be more real if they actually also had digital communications. How will you direct that person to the right place? Do you (the LAC) know where the PODS are? How often will you check up on them to make sure they are not lost or need more direction?

Before the imported person leaves, it must be established that that person can provide the appropriate services. I.E. The LAC sending the person to another area has prepared the ham being sent with:

Who needs to talk with whom,
where are these people located,
what kind of traffic needs to be passed,
what kind of equipment do each of the locations have,
the duration of deployment,
the right equipment!!!

It does no good to send a packet station if there is no other packet station to talk to. The LAC requesting the help would have already formulated the communications plan and then he begins putting together the resources. He needs to make sure that the resources he is getting sent in are the right ones. And, can that person/ham can provide and use the equipment?

The LAC requesting help must provide this information to the LAC that is sending the ham to the outside area and also that sending LAC decides who is best to send. This will require a surprising amount of coordination, esp. if you are getting requests from 3 or 4 areas. Keep in mind, in a real situation like this (if the PODS are activated) digital/winlink would be the method of choice enhanced by tactical messaging with voice. So, we would want at least voice and digital comm. between the all of the PODS, local hospitals, and if they are available, NH HSEM.

Does everyone know where the other NHARES groups and out of state groups will be listening and having their nets??? Does the person you are sending out know what frequencies and repeaters the place they are heading to would be using?? This is important for them to know, before they leave your repeater coverage.

Did the LAC sending the ham confirm all of this with the LAC that has requested help?

2.) Each area's LAC will have established two way messaging capability with at least TWO (but prefer all) of their neighboring area's LACs.

E.G. SGARES would have sent and received a message with the Central, Capital, Sullivan, VTARES and VT RACES LACs. East Coos with West Coos, Mt. Washington Valley, and Maine's LACs. You know where the NHARES groups will be listening, right? Get the idea?

The communications plan, attachment M (<http://ares.arrlnh.org/CommPlan/CommPlan.php>) is a map of the districts and will help you define who you need to talk with. You need to have established the path and sent and received a message, even if it is just a brief tactical message or a formatted message. When there is no LAC, like VT or ME, just establishing comm. with someone from that group is sufficient. The attempt to communicate will continue until 1300 or until you think it cannot be done in the allotted time. Those that need to communicate with other states can and should try and do some preparation, by having arranged to have someone to talk with and knowing what freq. they would be on in an emergency.

3.) Each area will establish a directed Net on their primary repeater that will be up for the duration of the event. The local LAC decides when to close it.

4.) Each area will establish at least one station monitoring and passing traffic on their simplex frequency. It is best if it is in a good high location and it needs to also have access to their primary repeater. It is best

if there are two operators at that site, one for repeater traffic to that sight, and another for managing the simplex traffic.

5.) Maximize simplex traffic, such as when guiding person(s) into your area talking with another LAC.

6.) Each area will have HF communications for a NHARES HF net. Starting at 0830. The ACO will decide when to close this net and assign an NCS.

7.) Each area will have access to the K1JY linked system.

The ACO will decide when to close this net and assign an NCS.

Those areas without constant K1JY coverage would want to begin to figure out how to try and get your part of the state linked for the SET, and what frequencies to use!

8.) Our ACO must have established communications with the VTARES SEC, the Maine ARES SEC, MARS and the NTS.

In an all Hazards event, it would be unlikely that the local EMDs/or PODs would communicate with any of these groups directly, but if help from outside is needed for ARES, it would be the ACO who would request it. Also, as an EC, one could only guess as to how we would communicate with MARS and NTS. So, the ACO for the SET (the SEC or his designate) will want to do some research on how to accomplish this goal ahead of time. Winlink should do the trick, if you have an active winlink address. If the SEC thinks about what path he might use, he can then educate those of us that are not sure, during the drill. It would be best to communicate to all of the LACs on how to send messages through their MARS and NTS in case we needed to. Just as might happen for real.

9.) For the state wide nets, K1JY and HF, the ACO will designate a net control operator after assessing the situation and who is on.

10) Regional Contact information and a map plus list to determine what Region your community is in and who the ECs could communicate with (besides a local EMD, who should know) about the POD locations are found here: <http://www.dhhs.nh.gov/DHHS/CDCS/LIBRARY/Fact+Sheet/PPCC-AHR-Map.htm>

State guidelines, plans, maps and contact information plus regional plans, based on state and federal policy can be found on the site: <http://www.dhhs.nh.gov/DHHS/CDCS/LIBRARY/Policy-Guideline/dphs-health-emergency-plan.htm>

SET scoring sheets: Form A and Form B are found at: http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/forms/ec_set.pdf and http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/forms/nm_set.pdf

They both need to be submitted by the ECs and/or Net Managers and mailed to the ARRL, by the EC/NM, by Jan. 31, 2008. Please send another copy to the SEC, Tom Richardson AB1CL, sec@arrlnh.org or 11 Littlehale Rd., Durham, NH 03824-2106. So ECs, fill them out and make three copies. One mailed to the ARRL, one emailed or mailed to the SEC, and one that you keep.

To summarize, we will be starting all of the usual nets, guiding 2-3 hams to a place they are not familiar with, and figuring out/learning how to communicate with our neighbors if we are given no guidance. (such as would happen initially in a true disaster with little ramp up time).

73 and Have Fun!

Rex Carr, AA1KL