

Oneida-Madison Counties ARES 2008 Simulated Emergency Test (SET)

Plan and Report

Purpose

The purpose of the SET is to practice and refine specific skill sets, procedures and equipment in preparation for possible communication emergencies.

Objectives

The objectives of this SET will be the following. This list is in no specific priority or timing order.

- Practice reporting weather related tactical message handling by sending approximately 6 tactical test priority weather messages to the Binghamton office of the National Weather Service.
- Practice sending formal traffic via the NTS by originating at least 6 test priority NTS messages.
- Practice reporting emergency situations by sending at least 3 tactical test emergency messages to the Oneida County EOC.
- Practice Emergency Net Procedures
- Evaluate Signal Propagation issues to and from selected local Red Cross Shelter Sites using both repeaters and simplex frequencies on two meters and possibly 70 cm.
- Practice sending typical Red Cross traffic by originating at least 6 Red Cross Tactical messages to and from the activated local Red Cross Shelter Sites. (Note: The Term Activated here means that an ARES member is either on that site or adjacent to that site. There will not be any Red Cross personnel at that the shelter sites and access to the interior of the builds will not be available)
- Practice communicating with hospital stations by sending at least 3 tactical messages to and from the hospitals that check-in.
- Practice Operating in field conditions, including setting up a station using "GO KIT" resources and with emergency power.

The Plan

Participants

The participants for this SET will be the following

- Oneida-Madison Counties ARES members (through check-ins and deployments)
- National Weather Service (NWS) Binghamton Office (via either the SKYARN 800 number or their SKYWARN over the air Liaison)
- Oneida American Red Cross Chapter (via their ARES Liaison)
- Rome American Red Cross Chapter (via their ARES Liaison)
- Utica American Red Cross Chapter (via their ARES Liaison)
- Oneida County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) (via the RACES Radio Officer (RO))

- Oneida City Hospital
- Hamilton Community Hospital
- Onondaga County ARES/RACES (via ARES Mutual Aid)
- National Traffic System (via OCTEN and NY Phone Liaisons)

Locations

Net Control stations(s)

- Home QTH or location of station's preference

American Red Cross Shelter Sites assignments

- Rome Chapter
 - Damage Assessment (assigned by Red Cross) – Frank – N2FHR
 - Lee Fire Dept Bingo Hall parking lot (field days site) – Assign Bill & Joan – K2GVI & KA2TSC
 - Camden Jr High School parking lot – Assign Doug AK2Z, unless someone else is available.
- Utica Chapter
 - Utica Chapter Headquarters (assigned by Red Cross) – Rich K4LV
 - First Presbyterian Church back parking lot at 1605 Genesee Street, Utica – Assign a Utica area station
 - Kerman school back parking lot, 922 York Street, Utica. - Assign a Utica area station.
- Oneida Chapter
 - To be announced on the air - Assign Andy - W2ZXN

Hospitals

- Oneida City Hospital, Madison County
- Hamilton City Hospital, Madison County

EOC

- Oneida County 911 Center, Oriskany, NY (assigned by RACES RO) – Mike - KB2AUJ

National Weather Service

- Binghamton Office
 - Via phone using SKYWARN 800 number – Assign John - AB2QZ
 - Via radio using 145.330 KB2AUJ repeater in Remsen, NY

Script

Summary

At approximately 0900 – NCS will activate SKYWARN Stations will check-in with up to 6 reportable events over the next 1 ½ hours.

Starting at approximately 0915 Stations will start reporting in with emergency situations to be relayed to the Oneida County EOC. There will be one emergency approximately every 15 minutes until 1030.

At Approximately 0930 – Each of the three ARC Liaisons will notify the EC that their chapter is activating some shelters and they are requesting a ham to provide emergency communications at the shelter locations.

Shelter Stations will come on line by 1000.

Liaison stations should be assigned for NWS, NTS, and Onondaga County.

Details

0900 – “This is _____ Activating SKYWARN for a SKYWARN Drill. This SKYWARN Drill is in coordination with the Binghamton office of the National Weather Service and is the opening portion of the 2008 Simulated Emergency Test for Oneida & Madison Counties Amateur Radio Emergency Service. There is No Emergency or Actual Severe Weather.”

“The situation is this....A late in the year Tropic System has come up the coast and made land fall in the Mid-Atlantic States. Currently it is dumping torrential amounts of rainfall over the Central New York area. The National Weather Service has requested SKYWARN Activation to provide critical weather related information. Specifically, Stations are being asked to report rainfall rates of greater than 1 inch per hour and measured rainfall amounts of greater than 1 inch since 0600 this morning.”

“Are there any stations with emergency or priority traffic?”

“Is there a station that can act as alternate net control?”

“Is there a station that can act as liaison to the NWS in Binghamton?”

“At this time, I will take check-ins from all stations, especially those with Test SKYWARN reports. Please check-in using standard net procedures, giving your call sign slowly and phonetically, your county of residence, and stating ‘Emergency Power’ if you are using other than commercial power.”

<Continue to take check-ins. Periodically recap the scenario and current situation. Keep transmissions short as possible – just like the real thing>

<There will be some ‘planted’ weather reports that will need to be relayed to NWS by the liaison station.>

<Sometime during the first hour, the Red Cross Chapters will request ARES Support at shelters they will be opening for those who are flooded out of their homes. Some assignments have been prearranged but others need to be filled with volunteers on the air. Stations should go to the parking lots of the shelter locations and work from their – we are not going into buildings with this test.>

<Encourage stations to send out 'Test Welfare' traffic stating that they are participating in the SET, etc.>

<There will be some ‘planted’ emergency reports that will need to be relayed to either the EOC or one of the Hospitals.>

<Have the following 'Test Priority' messages sent. This would be best if they came from the EC, John – AB2QZ. Text can be modified by station originating to fit the situation.>

_____ Test Priority _____ 26 _____, NY Nov 8, 2008

Scott, W2LC

Joe, KC2DKB

Jack, KA2ZNY

Vivian, WA2PUU

Don, N2ZWO

<break>

Oneida and Madison Counties ARES are conducting their 2008 SET supporting 7 served agencies today detailed report will follow via email at conclusion of test

73

<break>

<signature>

Execution

Lessons Learned

The following observations were observed and are considered lessons learned. These are presented in no particular order.

- NCS needs to maintain control of the net. Under emergency conditions, the net needs to be strictly a 'directed net'.
- Stations on the net must ask the NCS permission to go direct to other stations on the net.
- A single repeater can get over loaded fast. Except for Emergency Traffic, the Primary net freq needs to be for check-ins, announcing traffic and passing out assignments only. Actual traffic (tactical or formal) needs to be passed on secondary frequencies (repeater or simplex).
- During 'Test' or 'Exercise' all traffic, either formal or tactical, needs to explosively state 'Test' or 'Exercise' to avoid confusion with others that may be listening or receiving the traffic.
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Net Report

OMEN SKYWARN ARES SET Nov 8 2008 Time 08:58 - 11:58 Local Time

31 stations checked in

traffic passed 13

10 shelters involved

4 groups participated.

Checkins

ab2qz/ omec / e	before 2004
ak2z / omaec / nm / e	before 2004
k2gvi / o / e	before 2004
k4lv / o / e	before 2004
k5gmt / o / e	before 2004
ka2tsc / o / e	before 2004
ejn / o / e	before 2004
zfm / m / e	before 2004
kb2ccd / om aec / e	before 2004
auj / ocRO /e	before 2004
fed / o / e	before 2004
kc2pcn / m / e	Jan 27, 2006
rcu / onadoga	before 2004
sfi / m / e	Sep 19, 2007
phc / o	Mar 09, 2006
tzw / m / e	Oct 02, 2008
tow / m / e	Jun 20, 2008
sfg / m / e	Sep 19, 2007
sfh / m / e	Sep 19, 2007
nys / m / e / club	Mar 23, 2005
kg2bv / o / e	before 2004

n2kpr / o / ncs / e	before 2004
fhr / o / e	before 2004
uc / o	before 2004
cny / o / club	May 31, 2008
rxk / m / e	before 2004
w2zxn / m / e	Jul 03, 2007
juv / m / e	before 2004
der / onadoga / e	before 2004
bch / onadaga	before 2004
wb2bht / m / e	before 2004
blk / m / e	before 2004

Shelters involved:

Lee Center
 New Beginnings Church
 Oneida County 911 Center
 Rome Red Cross
 Utica Red Cross
 Oneida Red Cross
 Camden Middle School
 Oneida Health Care
 Hamilton Hospital
 New Hartford ?
 VVS School (Transportation)

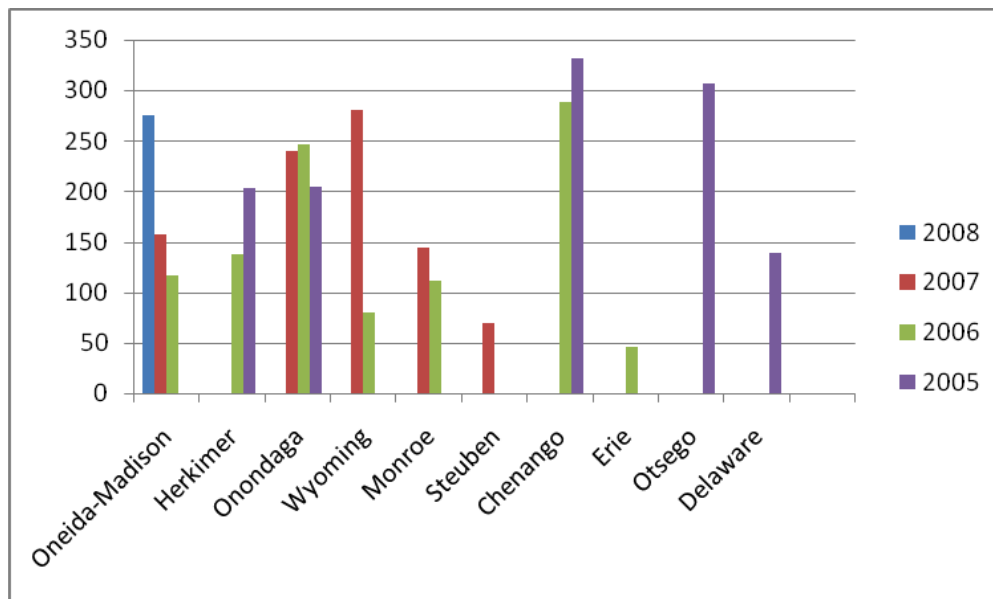
Groups Participating:

CNYARA
 Red Cross
 Races
 Ares
 Tasis

SET Report to HQ

Although the SET is not a contest with any winners or losers, it is fair and important to try to measure and quantify how we did and compare it to what we have done in the past and what others have done. In that vein, the ARRL has created a score sheet to evaluate how ARES groups do. The attachment shows how Oneida-Madison Counties ARES did this year. The table and chart below, compare how we did in recent years and how well other counties in the Western New York Section did.

County	2008	2007	2006	2005
Oneida-Madison	275	157	117	
Herkimer			137	203
Onondaga		240	247	204
Wyoming		280	80	
Monroe		144	112	
Steuben		70		
Chenango			288	332
Erie			46	
Otsego				307
Delaware				139
WNY Total	275	891	1027	1185
O-M percent of WNY	100%	18%	11%	0%



2008 EC SET Report



PLEASE PRINT

Please fill out this report in triplicate (one copy to ARRL Headquarters, one copy to your SEC or DEC, one copy for your file). Attach newspaper clippings, photos, remarks, suggestions and any other material to be used in the write-up. Deadline for return is January 30, 2009.

ARRL Section: WNY
Area of Jurisdiction: Oneida-Madison Counties
DEC's or EC's Call sign: AB2QZ
E-mail address: AB2QZ@ARRL.NET
Date of local SET: 8 Nov 2008

	Computation of score:			Points
A	Number of amateurs who participated in the test	30	X 2	60
B	Number of new amateurs (licensed since 2004) participating	10	X 3	30
C	Number of formal 3rd party written traffic messages originated or delivered during the SET on behalf of served agencies	8	X 1	8
D	Were TACTICAL communications conducted on behalf of served agencies? (1 hour or more, score 20 points; 1/2 hour to 1 hour, score 10; less than 1/2 hour, score 5.)	20	N/A	20
E	Number of stations on emergency power during the test	26	X 2	52
F	Number of emergency-powered repeaters used during the test Give call signs of repeaters: W2OFQ	1	X 10	10
G	Is <i>dual</i> membership in ARES and RACES actively encouraged? If YES, score 10 points.	Yes		10
H	Was liaison maintained during the SET with an NTS section or local net? If YES, score 10 points. Give call signs of station(s) performing liaison: AK2Z, K2DYB	Yes		10
I	Were digital modes utilized at any time during the exercise? If YES, score 10 points Name the digital modes utilized:	No		0
J	Number of different agencies for which communications were handled	7	X 5	35
K	Number of communities in which agencies were contacted. (If none, score MINUS 10) Name the community(ies) served: Utica, NY; Rome, NY; Oneida, NY; Hamilton, NY	4	X 10	40
L	Was a press release submitted? If YES, score 10 points, attach copy.	No		0
TOTAL NUMBER OF POINTS				275

Deadline for reporting is January 30, 2009.
Mail to: ARRL HQ, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111 USA

CC: ARRL HQ, SEC/DEC