



Henderson County ARES SET

November 1, 2014

Purpose of SET

Determine strengths and weaknesses of Henderson County ARES in providing emergency communications on the behalf of various served agencies.

1. Demonstrate ARES potential to served agencies such as Red Cross, Emergency Management, Pardee Hospital, and Henderson county Public Health the value to the public that Amateur Radio provides, particularly in time of need.
2. Help radio amateurs gain experience in communications using standard procedures and a variety of modes under simulated emergency conditions to support served agencies.

SET Format

The format will reflect the objectives. The exercise will emphasize use of digital modes for handling traffic via point-to-point VHF packet reports within the simulated disaster area, and out of the affected simulated disaster area via HF Pactor. SET will provide participants an opportunity to strengthen the VHF-HF link at the local level.

Preparing for SET

HC Emergency Coordinator requests all available amateurs in Henderson County area to participate in the SET. In an actual emergency amateur radio operators with varied interests and levels of experience will want to be involved. The SET will give non-ARES amateur operators an opportunity to know more about how emergency communications should be handled.

Briefings: A meeting of all ARES members and prospective members will be called to briefly outline SET activities, and give general instructions. Specific details will not be given at that time. The EC will contact the involved organization locations and explain the intent and overall purpose of the SET.

During the SET

The period of the simulated emergency will be from 10Am to 2PM.

The following activities will be conducted:

1. Emergency net activated on 164.640 PL or other frequency as might be necessary.
2. Stations will be dispatched to designation locations.
3. Each station will originate messages on behalf of their location.
4. Test messages simulating requests for supplies, resources, and simulated shelter reports will be sent via available communications methods to Net Control Station.



Henderson County ARES SET

November 1, 2014

Goals and Objectives

Software: RMS Express, both Peer-to-Peer packet, and HF pactor will be used to transmit messages.

Locations

Net Control located at the BRARC radio room, Jackson Park. Net Control location will have VHF packet, HF pactor stations, and 2-meter phone.

911/EOC VHF packet and 2-meter phone

Pardee Hospital VHF packet and 2-meter phone

Two shelter locations, will be announced prior to start of SET, VHF packet and 2-meter phone at each location

Henderson County Department of Health VHF packet and 2-meter phone

SET messages

Each location will keep a log of digital messages.

All digital messages will have "This is a Simulated Emergency Test"

Phone messages will state, "This is a Simulated Emergency Test"

Net Control to collect messages from each location

The 911/EOC to request supplies, equipment,

Department of Health additional medical supplies and medical personal

These messages will be sent via pactor to the Western Branch and State EOC in Raleigh. Messages should use ICS 213 format.

Shelter locations to send several shelter reports to SET Net Control.

Equipment

Three ARES packet stations will be used along with ARES member's personal packet/pactor and 2-meter phone, and antennas.



Henderson County ARES SET

November 1, 2014

Pactor equipment and/or MARS pactor D4, or members P3 pactor modems. A temporary HF antenna for pactor either a NVIS Dipole or similar antenna erected at Net Control location.

After Action Review (AAR) of the SET

An important post-SET activity will be a critique session to discuss the SET results. All ARES members and other participants of the SET will be invited to attend this meeting.

The AAR tool affords an opportunity to gain maximum benefit from the SET. It provides:

- Candid insights into specific strengths and weaknesses from various perspectives
- Feedback and insight critical to improved performance
- The AAR is the basis for learning from our successes and failures.

After Action Report

The results of the After Action Review will be used to produce an After Action Report, which will be sent to all SET participants and to:

Henderson County Emergency Management Director rhyder@hendersoncountync.org

Henderson County E911 Communications Center lstanley@hendersoncountync.org

Pardee Hospital Director of Emergency john.dunn@pardeehospital.org

Henderson County Public Health terria@hendersoncountync.org

American Red Cross dawn.huff@redcross.org

NC Emergency Management, Western Branch danny.g@ncdts.gov

Section Emergency Coordinator Tom Brown, n4tab@earthlink.net

Western Branch, North Carolina, Pual B.Roobinette, KD4OZI@ARRL.NET

AREA 15, District Coordinator, Richard Smith, W4RSS@ARRL.net