

After Action Report – RACES (Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service)
Makani Pahili Post Landfall 3 June 2014

We were here by 0730 to put up the HF antenna but we were not allowed to erect it until 1000. HF fldigi communications with State EOC was excellent, voice communication was fair to good.

Received 2 messages including 1 test message.
Sent 10 messages including 1 test message.

Problems:

1. I had set the option “allow manual tuning” on, which is often done on HF (not on VHF FM). After receiving an MT64-500L message (sent from Maui to State CD), the center frequency was left at 750 Hz. When I sent an MT64-1KL message, the center frequency had not been reset to 1000 Hz, so there was no copy. After I reset the center to 1000 Hz, they had perfect copy.

Another time, KH6HPZ sent MT64-500L with a center frequency of 1000 Hz. I could not receive it until I set the center frequency.

We should set our conventions on HF to either use the standard center frequencies, or always use a center frequency of 1000 Hz.

2. I was very disappointed in the response of State EOC (not the hams, who were merely being the messengers). Bob Harter sent them an RFA (Request for Action). State's reply was “Have you entered this into WEB EOC”. The entire point of this exercise was degraded communications. There may be a hardened connection from Oahu EOC to State EOC, but suppose a backhoe dug into it? Or a terrorist attack or an aircraft crash demolished the hardened connection.

3. Along the same lines, we sent 8 messages that asked for some sort of reply. Of these, State EOC only sent one reply (“Have you entered this into WEB EOC”).

4. SIMCEL claimed they sent State EOC a message to relay to us, but we never received it. Elsie called SIMCEL but they refused to resend it.

5. Operations were only on HF. The VHF and UHF operators had nothing to do.

Not really a problem, but we could have handled a much larger volume of traffic.

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