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Richland County ARES Planning/Training Updates

1 message

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Hello to all,

Many of you were not able to attend last Thursday's training net so I wanted to follow-up with an email to make everyone aware of a couple of the Richland County team's initiatives and encourage your involvement.

We are in the process of working on our Richland County Tactical Communications plan, starting with our Activation, and Simplex Communications processes. The goal is to develop a plan for each, document, test, finalize, and then adopt as part of our EmComm plan, enabling each member to know what to do in case of an emergency activation and, help our supported organizations feel confident that we are prepared.

We are starting with these two processes because a well-organized activation is critical to fulfilling our mission, whatever it may be, and simplex communication is very likely to be needed for any major emergency response event.

Emergency Activation:

We are in the early stages of working on this plan. It would seem simple but there are many options and technologies available and, selecting the right ones to most effectively ensure that we can contact and receive a response from all our members, in a short period of time, will require planning, testing, and evaluation, before we can settle on one. Hopefully we can start on this and send more detail on this out soon.

Simplex Communications:

As I presented in the meeting, this has been the focus of our efforts over the last couple weeks. An initial plan has been developed and we completed some testing. The basic concept is that we identify several key locations throughout our county, that can serve as relay points, what we are calling Hubs. These points are located high enough and dispersed widely enough to clearly communicate with each other and the EOC; and individually, with any station within their section of the county seeking to send or receive emergency information. Additionally, we want to be able to reach key personnel in each of the adjoining counties of the Midlands region, to enable us to assist, or request assistance, from them.

Please see the attached document for detail on the following points.

We have selected and tested four locations that appear to meet our needs as Hubs. Our initial testing included communications between the Hubs themselves and an alternate location close to the EOC. Connectivity between these was very good. We then manned some of these during last Wednesday's VHF simplex net and asked those checking in to evaluate and report their 'readability' with all of the other stations as each checked in. Overall, the results were good. We were able to talk with all that checked in, including some of the distant locations in our county.

We plan to repeat this test again this week during the VHF simplex net Wednesday evening at 7:30 and would like all of you to check in and report on your results. I have included the form, that Mark sent out last week, for recording and reporting, in case you no longer have it. If this test is as effective as the last, we can then work towards one additional test.

For the final test we want to get a large enough group of participants to hopefully have representation from all areas of the county. I plan to speak with the Columbia club and other groups for help in getting that large coverage. I am also going to solicit the participation of the adjoining county EC's and their leadership to validate we can reach into their areas. All of these will be consulted as we plan date/time.

As I mentioned earlier, we feel that being able to effectively communicate in VHF simplex is a basic building block for emergency communications and we want to get it right so, please let me know if you have any questions, comments, or criticisms that can help us make it better.

Joe - KO4WAA

Richland EC

2 attachments



Station readability survey Rev. 9.17.23.xlsx

25K



RC_ARES_COMM_PLAN_091623.pdf

157K