

St. Charles County ARES®

Simulated Emergency Test 2023



Operation "Aware"

Report

7 October 2023

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Introduction:

St. Charles County ARES® has had an influx of new members over the last two years and many are working toward the completion of the Missouri Section ARES Skills Workbook. The Simulated Emergency Test is an excellent opportunity to learn on the job as ARES exercises with very likely scenario-based situations for the volunteers to respond to. SET 2023 was called “Operation Aware” because it emphasized what ARES volunteers can do in the County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) to provide Situational Awareness (SA) for professional responders and to provide a better Common Operating Picture (COP) for responding agencies. Also, the skills workbook has specific training required for various ICS forms like the ICS-205 (Radio Communications Plan) and ICS-214 (Activity Log) which were both employed in the exercise.

Simulation Scenario:

“Operation Aware” involved a series of severe thunderstorms which passed from southwest to northeast through St. Charles County. A tornado was reported which caused significant damage to businesses involving professional responders from fire districts. Jeff (KB3HF) served as the dispatch center and several volunteers served as net control operators (NCOs) and loggers for the exercise.

Phase 1 of the exercise involved training new amateurs on the Net Control Station (NCS) under the pressure of a very real sounding simulated event as the spotters in the field reported severe weather events to the NCO at the County Emergency Operations Center (EOC). Tactical call-signs were used to designate the operators by geographical areas.



NCO and Loggers in EOC Radio Room

Phase 2 involved passing traffic in the form of windshield damage assessment reports (DARs) from various locations in the field. The repeater was damaged by lightning in the simulation so all units had to recheck on a simplex net on the county ARES ground frequency (HVTAC7). There were eight DARs passed from spotters in the field to the NCO. These DARs provide information on areas affected by the storms, the type of damage, lifelines, access routes, assessment targets (businesses or homes affected), help needed and other information related to a response to the area. Phase 2 also included the demobilization of the field units.

The NCO in the EOC passed information to the simulated Dispatch Center (KB3HF) to pass to the professional responders at the various locations affected by the first wave of the storm.

Throughout the exercise, NCOs were changed to provide training to more than one operator on the logging software (QLOG5), damage assessment database (written by NOPNP and KB3HF) and operating as the NCO.

Field units were provided with a briefing package, exercise timeline and tactical traffic to pass. DARs were provided to each field team to read back to the NCO to test accuracy of the reporting.

Exercise Objectives/Skills Exercised:

Objectives:

1. Demonstrate the ability of amateur radio volunteers to provide situational awareness (SA) information to professional responders
2. Demonstrate how better SA contributes to a better Common Operating Picture (COP) at the EOC
3. Practice windshield damage assessment in a full-scale scenario
4. Practice EOC activation
5. Practice orderly information transfer on a directed net
 - a. Passing traffic at copiable speeds
 - b. Use of phonetics as required – especially where copy is difficult
6. Seamless transition from a repeater-based net to a simplex net

Skills Exercised:

1. Directed Net operation with NCO and participants
 - a. NCO net operations
 - b. Fielded unit operating procedures
 - c. Logging traffic
2. Windshield Damage Assessment
 - a. Passing traffic at copiable speeds
 - b. Logging of the DARs on the Damage Assessment Database
3. EOC Activation
4. Operating a simplex net/operating on a simplex net
5. Filling out ICS-205, 214 sheets
6. Sending/Receiving messages via Winlink
7. Deployment of Go-Kits (mobile radio, power and antenna)

Sixteen total volunteers participated in the exercise including the Section Emergency Coordinator, District C Emergency Coordinator (also St. Charles County EC), Army MARS and the St. Charles County Regional Emergency Management.

Lessons Learned:

1. It is OK to use common abbreviations when logging tactical traffic rather than to write down or type every letter of every word.
2. Some traffic passed was a bit fast for easy copy but very few repeats were necessary
3. New Melle spotters were a bit scratchy into the simplex net (operating at 40 watts) but most locations were copiable. Here use of standard phonetics was necessary to properly copy the traffic.
4. Remember that with tactical call-signs, it is still necessary to ID regularly with your FCC call-sign.
5. If passing formal traffic like DARs, inform the NCO that the formal traffic is coming so that they can have the database pulled up and be ready to copy.
6. The DARs were broken up by sections on the report form which made the job of the logger easier.
7. Field units had a tendency to read back the control numbers on their sheets. Field units do not assign DAR control numbers, those are assigned by the database.
8. Good transition from the repeater-based net to the simplex net. The transition was seamless with a quick re-check and the net was back to passing traffic.

Objectives Met:

All objectives of the exercise were met with several lessons learned on what to do better next time and what went well in this scenario-based exercise. There was a hotwash after the exercise where all lessons learned and objectives met were discussed. The first two objectives (although they were the objectives the exercise was based on) became less important in the exercise than the passing of tactical traffic and formal DAR traffic, especially with new NCOs and several new amateurs that have not exercised in this way in the past. The emphasis became accurate logging under a high stress situation which is critically important for the preservation of life and property and the use of the information for purposes of

informing professional responders of damage and for the use of formal damage assessment for disaster declaration purposes.

Conclusion:

For many years St. Charles County ARES has had a good working relationship with St. Charles County Regional Emergency Management and that was borne out in this exercise.

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Airforce MARS Message

Message ID: 64G00TSLNJHN
Date: 2023/10/07 19:14
From: KF0FXJ
To: W0ECA
Source: KF0FXJ
Downloaded-from: RMS:W0ECA-10
Location: 38.770833N, 90.541667W (GRID SQUARE)
Subject: AF-MARS SET Message

AF-MARS SET Message

7. MSG: As the Combatant Command responsible for Homeland Defense, USNORTHCOM appreciates the Amateur Radio community efforts in conducting regular training events to hone and improve your communication skills as well as the MARS outreach to amateur radio.

DE KF0FXJ

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Communications Log

COMMUNICATIONS LOG				Barcode too big to fit	
Event: 2023 SET				Operational Period Start:	10/07/2023 13:19
				End:	10/07/2023 15:21
Log					
Date	Time	Station ID		Comments	
		Operator	Source		
10/07/23	13:19:06	KB3HF	W0KAH	CHECKING INTO NET - WENTZVILLE	
10/07/23	13:19:16	KB3HF	AD0YL	CHECKING INTO NET - DARDENNE PRAIRIE	
10/07/23	13:19:51	KB3HF	W0PS	CHECKING INTO NET - NEW MELLE	
10/07/23	13:20:04	KB3HF	KF0JEJ	CHECKIN INTO NET - O'FALLON	
10/07/23	13:21:26	KB3HF	W0KAH	Enroute	
10/07/23	13:21:37	KB3HF	AE0ME	On site EOC	
10/07/23	13:21:47	KB3HF	N0PNP	Enroute EOC	
10/07/23	13:22:30	KB3HF	KZ8E	Onsite	
10/07/23	13:27:25	AE0ME	DAR	On site	
10/07/23	13:29:01	AE0ME	KF0IOS	On Site EOC	
10/07/23	13:37:23	AE0ME	N0PNP	On site EOC	
10/07/23	13:38:30	KB3HF	WTZ	On site DT	
10/07/23	13:38:50	KB3HF	OFL	On site	
10/07/23	13:40:36	KB3HF	NMEL	On site	
10/07/23	13:41:02	KB3HF	NMEL	Tornado spotted 3 mi SW of NMEL	
10/07/23	13:46:20	AE0ME	WTZ	Skywarn spotter indicates very dark clouds indicating rotation to SSE estimating rotation 8 Mi away Heavy rain & ltg in Wtz	
10/07/23	13:47:01	AE0ME	EOC	Tornado warning from NWS	
10/07/23	13:52:18	AE0ME	EOC	NWS radar indicated traffic 5 mi SW of NMEL moving 40 mph	
10/07/23	13:57:50	KF0IOS	EOC	Spotter ind tornado on grnd 15 mi SW - homes damaged - Est EF-3 Tornado	
10/07/23	14:01:11	KF0IOS	NMEL	Spott NW of NMel Rept debris cld mvg to NE Conf by Sppt E of NMEL LEO Confirms	
10/07/23	14:05:33	KF0IOS	DAR	Sppt in dar rept 1.25 inch hail in dar	
10/07/23	14:10:39	KF0IOS	OFL	Hvy rain 60 mph wind 3/4 in hail	
10/07/23	14:14:03	KF0IOS	EOC	Nws tornado weakening now ef-2	
10/07/23	14:16:04	KF0IOS	STP	Tornado wrapped in rain. 2 miles s/w of mid rivers maul	
10/07/23	14:19:19	KF0IOS	OFL	Hvy rain nickel size hail by ssm hosp lsl	
10/07/23	14:21:12	KFOHFB	ECA	154.49 Rptr off line switch to 146.595	
10/07/23	14:22:57	KFOHFB	ECA	Accountability check OFL/STP-L&C DAR-L&C NMEL-L&C WTZ-L&C	
10/07/23	14:23:16	KFOHFB	EOC	Beginning Phase 2	
10/07/23	14:24:25	KFOHFB	DAR	DAR - Access to tgt route Hwy 61 & Winghaven VV-20-45 Hilton Garden Inn	
10/07/23	14:28:21	KFOHFB	DAR	Enroute to next location	
10/07/23	14:31:40	KFOHFB	DAR	ETA 2 min	
10/07/23	14:34:36	KFOHFB	DAR	DAR - UC access rte 73 UU5-19.5-45 Lt Storage	

2023 SET

Page: 1 of 2

10/7/2023 3:22:55 PM

Date	Time	Station ID		Comments
		Operator	Source	
10/07/23	14:38:55	KFOHFB	OFL	DAR access rt 1301 Bramblett Rd RR-3 16.5 -46 Golden Correl Restaurant
10/07/23	14:47:36	KFOHFB	NMEL	DAR Hwy Z & Hwy D Bavarian Smokehouse
10/07/23	14:50:45	KFOHFB	DAR	DAR 4-5" limbs down
10/07/23	14:54:35	KFOHFB	NMEL	DAR access Hwy Z & Hwy D NMEL Chamber of Comm
10/07/23	14:57:41	KFOHFB	DAR	Directed to Return to EOC
10/07/23	14:58:12	KFOHFB	NMEL	Directed to return to EOC
10/07/23	15:02:05	KFOHFB	WTZ	Access Rt 100 Medical Pkwy access via I-70 to LSL Blvd XX.3-16.1-44 Access Tgt SSM Hospital @ LSL
10/07/23	15:06:09	KFOHFB	EOC	Directed to return to EOC
10/07/23	15:12:22	KFOHFB	OFL	Access rt 8505 Vet Mem Pkwy RR-16-46 Access Tgt Ethyls Smokehouse
10/07/23	15:17:05	KFOHFB	OFL	Access rt 200 Salt Lick Rd via I-70 OO-16-46 Assess Tgt St Peters Golf Course
10/07/23	15:20:16	KFOHFB	OFL	Directed to retrurn to EOC
10/07/23	15:21:00	KFOHFB	EOIC	Eercise Closed

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ACTIVITY LOG (ICS 214)

[illegible]

ACTIVITY LOG (ICS 214)

[illegible]

ACTIVITY LOG (ICS 214)

[illegible]

ACTIVITY LOG (ICS 214)

[illegible]

ACTIVITY LOG (ICS 214)

10/1/23

[illegible]

Rapid Damage Assessment Report

Control Number 1 Date 10/7/2023 Time Reported 19:24 Incident Type: SET Sector DAR

Access Route to Target HWY 61 and Winghaven VV-20-45	Assessment Target Hilton Garden Inn
	Collector's Name: AD0YL

Life Safety Operations

Number Trapped <u>0</u>	Number Dead <u>0</u>	Number Injured <u>0</u>	Number Requiring Evacuation <u>0</u>
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Status of Lifelines

Electricity Functioning <input type="checkbox"/>	Gas Functioning <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Water Functioning <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Sewer Functioning <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Telephone Functioning <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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Description of Imminent Hazards

Window damage to upper floors. Some minor damage to roof. Cars parked in parking area have substantial hail damage with windshields broken.

Other Major Problems

Automobile partially blocking Winghaven blvd. Traffic is getting around it. Electricity is out in the area.

Additional Resources Required

SAR <input type="checkbox"/>	Fire <input type="checkbox"/>	EMS <input type="checkbox"/>	Law Enforcement <input type="checkbox"/>	Electric <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Gas <input type="checkbox"/>	Water <input type="checkbox"/>	Public Works <input type="checkbox"/>
Building and Safety <input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation <input type="checkbox"/>	Food <input type="checkbox"/>	Sheltering <input type="checkbox"/>				

Other Disaster Intelligence Observed

Rapid Damage Assessment Report

Control Number 2 Date 10/7/2023 Time Reported 19:33 Incident Type: SET Sector DAR

Access Route to Target 7351 Hwy N UU.5-19.5-45	Assessment Target Life Storage
Collector's Name: KFOMEY	

Life Safety Operations

Number Trapped	Number Dead	Number Injured	Number Requiring Evacuation
<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>

Status of Lifelines

Electricity Functioning	Gas Functioning	Water Functioning	Sewer Functioning	Telephone Functioning
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Description of Imminent Hazards

Roof blown off part of building and landed on automobile with 2 persons. The 2 persons appear to be injured. EMS has been notified and are en route. Electricity out in the area.

Other Major Problems

Traffic lights not functioning.

Additional Resources Required

SAR	Fire	EMS	Law Enforcement	Electric	Gas	Water	Public Works
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Building and Safety	Transportation	Food	Sheltering				
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				

Other Disaster Intelligence Observed

Rapid Damage Assessment Report

Control Number 3 Date 10/7/2023 Time Reported 19:37 Incident Type: SET Sector OFL

Access Route to Target 1301 Bramblett Rd RR.3-16.5-46	Assessment Target Golden Corral Buffet
	Collector's Name: KF0JEJ

Life Safety Operations

Number Trapped	Number Dead	Number Injured	Number Requiring Evacuation
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>0</u>

Status of Lifelines

Electricity Functioning	Gas Functioning	Water Functioning	Sewer Functioning	Telephone Functioning
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Description of Imminent Hazards

The roof is damaged. Part of the roof has been removed from the building. Three people injured from flying debris. EMS notified and en route.

Other Major Problems

Debris in road on Bramblett. Volunteers attempting to remove debris for access. Electricity is out along Highway K.

Additional Resources Required

SAR	Fire	EMS	Law Enforcement	Electric	Gas	Water	Public Works
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Building and Safety	Transportation	Food	Sheltering				
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				

Other Disaster Intelligence Observed

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Rapid Damage Assessment Report

Control Number Date Time Reported Incident Type: Sector
 4 10/7/2023 19:41 SET NMEL

Access Route to Target Highway Z and Highway D	Assessment Target Bavarian Smoke Haus
	Collector's Name: KFOMEY

Life Safety Operations

Number Trapped	Number Dead	Number Injured	Number Requiring Evacuation
1	0	0	0

Status of Lifelines

Electricity Functioning	Gas Functioning	Water Functioning	Sewer Functioning	Telephone Functioning
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Description of Imminent Hazards

Roof collapsed. One person trapped. Wentzville FD on scene. Smell of Natural Gas. Fire has evacuated the area.

Other Major Problems

Trees down in area partially blocking Highway D. Large branches 6 in diameter also down. Power is out in area.

Additional Resources Required

SAR	Fire	EMS	Law Enforcement	Electric	Gas	Water	Public Works
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Building and Safety	Transportation	Food	Sheltering				
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				

Other Disaster Intelligence Observed

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Rapid Damage Assessment Report

Control Number 5 Date 10/7/2023 Time Reported 19:50 Incident Type: SET Sector NMEL

Access Route to Target Highway Z and Highway D	Assessment Target Chamber of Commerce
	Collector's Name: WOPS

Life Safety Operations

Number Trapped 0 Number Dead 0 Number Injured 0 Number Requiring Evacuation 0

Status of Lifelines

Electricity Functioning ☐ Gas Functioning ☒ Water Functioning ☒ Sewer Functioning ☒ Telephone Functioning ☒

Description of Imminent Hazards

Part of roof removed. Smoke coming from bldg. Fire rescue on scene.

Other Major Problems

Looks to be getting darker to southwest. May be more severe weather. Electricity out and highway D partially blocked by downed trees.

Additional Resources Required

SAR ☐ Fire ☐ EMS ☐ Law Enforcement ☐ Electric ☒ Gas ☐ Water ☐ Public Works ☐
Building and Safety ☐ Transportation ☐ Food ☐ Sheltering ☐

Other Disaster Intelligence Observed

Rapid Damage Assessment Report

Control Number 6 Date 10/7/2023 Time Reported 20:00 Incident Type: SET Sector WTZ

Access Route to Target 100 Medical Parkway access via I-70 to Lake St. Louis Blvd XX.3-16.1-44	Assessment Target SSM Lake St. Louis
Collector's Name: WOKAH	

Life Safety Operations

Number Trapped	Number Dead	Number Injured	Number Requiring Evacuation
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

Status of Lifelines

Electricity Functioning	Gas Functioning	Water Functioning	Sewer Functioning	Telephone Functioning
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Description of Imminent Hazards

Damage to several windows in the south tower/surgical center. Hail damage to several vehicles. Power functioning at hospital but surrounding area has no power.

Other Major Problems

Additional Resources Required

SAR	Fire	EMS	Law Enforcement	Electric	Gas	Water	Public Works
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Building and Safety	Transportation	Food	Sheltering				
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				

Other Disaster Intelligence Observed

Rapid Damage Assessment Report

Control Number 7 Date 10/7/2023 Time Reported 20:10 Incident Type: SET Sector OFL

Access Route to Target 8505 Veterans Memorial Parkway RR-16-46	Assessment Target Ethyls Smokehouse
Collector's Name: KF0JEJ	

Life Safety Operations

Number Trapped	Number Dead	Number Injured	Number Requiring Evacuation
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

Status of Lifelines

Electricity Functioning	Gas Functioning	Water Functioning	Sewer Functioning	Telephone Functioning
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Description of Imminent Hazards

The roof of the bldg is off the bldg and smoke coming from the rear of the building. Facility is not open at this time, so no occupants inside. Fire department is on scene and police directing traffic around debris on Veterans Memorial Parkway.

Other Major Problems

Trees and debris partially blocking Veterans Memorial Parkway

Additional Resources Required

SAR	Fire	EMS	Law Enforcement	Electric	Gas	Water	Public Works
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Building and Safety	Transportation	Food	Sheltering				
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				

Other Disaster Intelligence Observed

Rapid Damage Assessment Report

Control Number	Date	Time Reported	Incident Type:	Sector
<u>8</u>	<u>10/7/2023</u>	<u>20:15</u>	<u>SET</u>	<u>STP</u>

Access Route to Target 200 Salt Lick Rd via I-70 OO-16-46	Assessment Target St Peters Golf Course
Collector's Name: KF0FXJ	

Life Safety Operations

Number Trapped	Number Dead	Number Injured	Number Requiring Evacuation
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

Status of Lifelines

Electricity Functioning	Gas Functioning	Water Functioning	Sewer Functioning	Telephone Functioning
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Description of Imminent Hazards
 Hail damage to cars. part of roof has minor damage. Missing shingles. Electricity out in area.

Other Major Problems

Additional Resources Required

SAR	Fire	EMS	Law Enforcement	Electric	Gas	Water	Public Works
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Building and Safety	Transportation	Food	Sheltering				
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				

Other Disaster Intelligence Observed

[illegible]

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Staging Briefing Package Handout
Briefing

Safety – Emphasis is on safety for this exercise

- Do not exceed the speed limit and always drive safely – even if it takes longer
- If there is a real emergency say **“This is Real Emergency Traffic”** on the 145.490(-) MHz repeater and the EOC will respond as required
- Do not trespass on any private property
- Always follow any transmission related to the exercise with **“This is drill traffic”**
- If questioned by law enforcement indicate that you are participating in a communications exercise and give them the following contact information:

William Grimsbo - ARES® Emergency Coordinator
Contact at: 636-219-9594

Duration - The duration of this exercise is about 2.5 hours

Exercise Objective – The objectives of this exercise are to practice passing traffic in an emergency situation in an orderly and efficient manner. The exercise will be in two phases. The first phase is a severe weather spotting and reporting exercise. Phase 2 involves windshield damage assessment. During the damage assessment phase reports will be only what can be seen from the road with eyes or binoculars. Do NOT enter any property or buildings during this phase. In both phases all traffic must be followed by “This is drill traffic.” The intent of this exercise is to demonstrate the following:

1. The ability of amateur radio volunteers to provide situational awareness (SA) information to professional responders
2. How better SA contributes to a better Common Operating Picture (COP) at the EOC
3. Practice windshield damage assessment in a full-scale scenario
4. Practice EOC activation
5. Practice orderly information transfer on a directed net

Please write down any thoughts regarding the exercise and lessons learned during the exercise for the hotwash.

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Phase 1 Tornado Spotter Response

1300	EOC	1	1300	EOC	2
Page out to volunteers to begin exercise			NWS announcement of severe thunderstorm warning and tornado watch in St. Charles and counties to SW and NE.		
Say "Drill Traffic" after each transmission			Say "Drill Traffic" after each transmission		
1310	EOC	3	EOC	4	
County EOC activated – message sent to SEC via Winlink that exercise has started.			NCO takes check-ins for ARES® Skywarn net.		
Say "Drill Traffic" after each transmission			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 NCOs • 1 Logger 		
Say "Drill Traffic" after each transmission			Say "Drill Traffic" after each transmission		
1340		5	1343		6
Skywarn spotter in New Melle reports tornado sighted 3 miles SW of New Melle.			Wentzville Skywarn spotter indicates very dark clouds and indication of rotation to SSE. Estimating 8 miles away. Heavy rain and lightning in Wentzville.		
Say "Drill Traffic" after each transmission			Say "Drill Traffic" after each transmission		
1346	EOC	7	1349	EOC	8
NWS has issued tornado warning for St. Charles County. Cell SW of New Melle has rotation and is moving to NE at 40 mph. Warning has been verified by spotters and law enforcement			EOC informs Dispatch that a tornado warning has been issued for the New Melle area.		
Say "Drill Traffic" after each transmission			Not to be read over air		
Say "Drill Traffic" after each transmission			Say "Drill Traffic" after each transmission		

1351	EOC	9	1354	EOC	10
<p>NWS has radar indicated tornado 5 miles SW of New Melle, moving at 40 mph.</p> <p>Announced as bulletin Say "Drill Traffic" after each transmission</p>			<p>Several New Melle and Wentzville Fire/Rescue assets moving to New Melle to respond to reported damage to Chamber of Commerce building and several homes.</p> <p>Not to be read over air</p>		
1357	Spotters	11	1400	Spotters	12
<p>Spotter in New Melle has indicated there is a tornado on the ground 1.5 miles SW of New Melle and several homes damaged. Estimated EF-3 tornado.</p> <p>Say "Drill Traffic" after each transmission</p>			<p>Spotters NW of New Melle report debris cloud moving to NE. Confirmed by spotters East of New Melle. Law enforcement confirms.</p> <p>Say "Drill Traffic" after each transmission</p>		
1403	EOC	13	1406	Spotters	14
<p>EOC informs Dispatch that responders should take cover – tornado on the ground approaching New Melle per spotters and LE confirmation.</p> <p>Not to be read over air</p>			<p>Spotter in Dardenne Prairie reports 1.25 inch hail in Dardenne Prairie.</p> <p>Say "Drill Traffic" after each transmission</p>		
1409	Spotters	15	1409	EOC	15
<p>Spotter in O'Fallon reports heavy rain, winds of 60 mph and ¾ inch hail.</p> <p>Say "Drill Traffic" after each transmission</p>			<p>EOC informs Dispatch that the tornado has moved out of New Melle headed NE at 40 mph.</p> <p>Not to be read over air</p>		

1412	EOC	16	1415	Spotters	17
<p>NWS indicates the rain cooled flanking line is moving around the back of the tornado and is weakening the tornado. Now EF-2.</p> <p>Announced as bulletin</p> <p>Say "Drill Traffic" after each transmission</p>			<p>Spotter in St. Peters reports the tornado is wrapped in rain and difficult to see but appears to be 2 miles SW of Mid-Rivers Mall.</p> <p>Say "Drill Traffic" after each transmission</p>		
1418	Spotters	18	1421	Spotters	19
<p>O'Fallon Spotter reports heavy rain and nickel sized hail by SSM hospital in Lake St. Louis.</p> <p>Say "Drill Traffic" after each transmission</p>			<p>St. Peters Spotter reports 1.5 inch hail at Mid Rivers Mall.</p> <p>Say "Drill Traffic" after each transmission</p>		

In Phase 2 – The coordinates in the lower left of the spotter reports indicate the Wunnenberg Street Map coordinates by page number and coordinates on the page. Use the ECA Field Guide Issue 8 to decode the coordinates.

Phase 2 is the damage assessment phase of the exercise. Damage is spotty and spread over several areas following a line from southwest to northeast.

EOC needs to copy all damage assessment reports. The NCO is in control of the net so slow it down as required to copy all DARs.

Phase 2 – Damage Assessment Phase**Repeater goes down – go to HVTAC 7**

Note: Repeater will remain on the air in the event of a real exercise-related emergency.

<p>1425 Spotters 1</p> <p>Damage Assessment Report 1 from Dardenne Prairie spotter (Read DAR 1 form on air). Hilton Garden Inn – Hwy 61 & Winghaven.</p> <p>(VV-20-45) Say “Drill Traffic” after each transmission</p>	<p>1430 Spotters 2</p> <p>Damage Assessment Report 2 from Dardenne Prairie (Read DAR 2 form on air). Life Storage 7351 Rt. N.</p> <p>(UU.5-19.5-45) Say “Drill Traffic” after each transmission</p>
<p>1435 Spotters 3</p> <p>Damage Assessment Report 3 from O’Fallon spotter (Read DAR 3 on air). Golden Corral, 1301 Bramblett Rd.</p> <p>(RR.3-16.5-46) Say “Drill Traffic” after each transmission</p>	<p>1440 Spotters 4</p> <p>Damage Assessment Report 4 from New Melle spotter (Read DAR 4 on air). Damage to Bavarian Smoke Haus on Z and D.</p> <p>(FFF.5-24.5-52) Say “Drill Traffic” after each transmission</p>
<p>1445 EOC 5</p> <p>EOC acknowledges DARs 1-4 as they come in.</p> <p> Say “Drill Traffic” after each transmission</p>	<p>1450 Spotters 6</p> <p>New Melle Spotter reports New Melle Chamber of Commerce has damaged roof and there appears to be smoke coming from the building (Read DAR 5 over air).</p> <p>(FFF.5-24.6-52) Say “Drill Traffic” after each transmission</p>

1445	EOC	7	1450	Spotters	8
EOC acknowledges DAR 5.			Dardenne Prairie spotters report no additional damage reports other than 4 to 5 inch tree limbs down and power out in various areas.		
Say "Drill Traffic" after each transmission			Say "Drill Traffic" after each transmission		
1445	EOC	9	1450	Spotter	10
EOC acknowledges and moves Dardenne Prairie spotters to EOC.			New Melle reports that other than tree damage (up to 6 inch branches down) and power outage, no other significant damage seen.		
Say "Drill Traffic" after each transmission			Say "Drill Traffic" after each transmission		
1455	EOC	11	1456	EOC	12
EOC directs New Melle spotters to return to EOC.			National Weather Service has lifted the warning for St. Charles County.		
EOC reports tree damage to NWS. (Not to be read over air)			Announced as bulletin		
Say "Drill Traffic" after each transmission			Say "Drill Traffic" after each transmission		
1500	Spotters	13	1505	EOC	14
Damage Assessment Report 6 from Lake St. Louis spotter (Read DAR 6 over air). Damage to several windows in the South Tower at SSM Lk. St. Louis.			EOC acknowledges DAR 6 and moves Lk. St. Louis spotter to EOC.		
(XX.3-16.1-44) Say "Drill Traffic" after each transmission			Say "Drill Traffic" after each transmission		

1510	Spotter	15	1515	EOC	16
<p>Damage Assessment Report 7 from O’Fallon spotter (Read DAR 7 over air). Roof off of Ethyl’s Smokehouse and smoke coming from building.</p> <p>(RR-16-46) Say “Drill Traffic” after each transmission</p>			<p>EOC acknowledges DAR 7 and moves O’Fallon and Lk. St. Louis spotters to EOC.</p> <p>Say “Drill Traffic” after each transmission</p>		
1520	Spotter	17	1525	EOC	18
<p>Damage Assessment Report 8 from St. Peters Spotter (Read DAR 8 over air). St. Peters Golf Club has hail damage to cars and damage (corner of roof blown off).</p> <p>(OO-16-46) Say “Drill Traffic” after each transmission</p>			<p>EOC acknowledges DAR 8 and advises St. Peters spotters to return to EOC.</p> <p>Say “Drill Traffic” after each transmission</p>		
1526	EOC	19	<p>REPEATER BACK ON AIR</p> <p>Exercise suspended.</p>		
<p>EOC suspends exercise and orders all field units to report to EOC with all paperwork associated with the exercise.</p> <p>Announced as bulletin Say “Drill Traffic” after each transmission</p>					

Phase 3 – Demobilization, Hot Wash and Refreshments

Demobilization is taking place as spotters are directed to return to EOC in phase 2 of the exercise.

[RETURN TO TOC](#)

Scenario Description

St. Charles County ARES® Simulated Emergency Test 2023



Operation “Aware”

Simulated Emergency Test 2023

Scenario

The 2023 Simulated Emergency Test (SET) will emphasize situational awareness and damage assessment in a simulated severe weather scenario. St. Charles County ARES® has performed simulated severe weather exercises in the past but usually after-the-fact response. This exercise will emphasize response during the event and will emphasize the need for situational awareness during the event.

Situational Awareness (SA) is **the ability to identify, process, and comprehend the critical information about an incident**. More simply, SA is knowing what is going on around you.

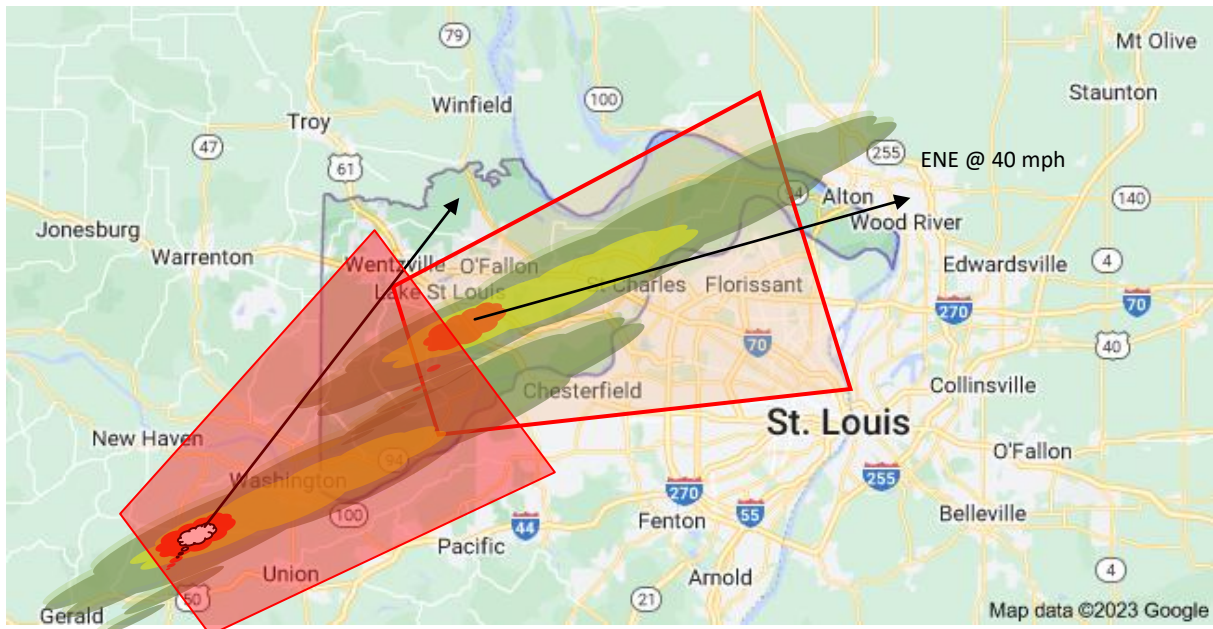
Many times in an emergency situation, responders tend to be focused on their particular aspect of the response rather than to see the “bigger picture.” This can put responders in danger and compromise the response effort. While it is important to be focused on the task at hand, it is also important to be aware of the larger event. This is where the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and amateur radio volunteers can work with responders to provide a “safety net.”

This scenario is based on a severe weather scenario where a series of storms train over the St. Charles County area and surrounding counties. There have been several tornado reports in this line of storms and several warnings have been issued by NWS. First responders are working a response in New Melle in the aftermath of a tornado which caused substantial damage to businesses and residences. Central County Fire/Rescue and New Melle volunteer fire responders are working several sites in the town.

Lightning damage has taken the 145.490 repeater down and all operations are simplex.

Severe weather is still imminent in the area and a warning has been issued in St. Charles County. County Dispatch and Alarm has not transmitted the latest warning to the responders. Skywarn volunteers have spotted a tornado moving toward the New Melle area. In the interest of situational awareness, the Skywarn network contacts County Dispatch and Alarm to inform them of the tornado moving in that general direction, allowing responders to seek shelter prior to the storm reaching New Melle.

County Dispatch is also informed of damages in the wake of the tornado from windshield damage assessment done by volunteer spotters.



Exercise Timeline

- 1300 - Brief at Church (Grace Presb. On Hwy N)
- 1315 - Page & Check in net from Church & deploy
- 1340 - Arrive Locations - Start Spotter Reports
- 1425 - Start Phase 2 - Damage Assessment
- 1526 - Exercise End
- 1530 - Hot Wash

Objectives

1. Demonstrate the ability of amateur radio volunteers to provide situational awareness (SA) information to professional responders
2. Demonstrate how better SA contributes to a better Common Operating Picture (COP) at the EOC
3. Practice windshield damage assessment in a full-scale scenario
4. Practice EOC activation
5. Practice orderly information transfer on a directed net

Skills

1. Directed Net operation with NCO and participants
2. Windshield Damage Assessment
3. EOC Activation
4. Operating a simplex net/operating on a simplex net
5. Filling out ICS-205, 214 sheets
6. Deployment of Go-Kits (mobile radio, power and antenna)

Definitions:

ARES – Amateur Radio Emergency Service

COP – Common Operating Picture - A common operating picture means that personnel from all organizations at all locations have the same information – includes Data, Information and Intelligence

EOC – Emergency Operations Center

NCO – Net Control Operator

SA – Situational Awareness - knowing what is going on around you from multiple sources including radio operators, trained spotters, NWS and on-scene First Responders

SET – Simulated Emergency Test

ICS-205

INCIDENT RADIO COMMUNICATIONS PLAN		Incident Name		Date/Time Prepared	Operational Period Date/Time
		SET 2023		3/3/2023	7 October 1300 - 1600
4. Basic Radio Channel Utilization					
Function	Radio Type/Cache	Group/Channel	Frequency/Tone	Assignment	Remarks
EOC to Spotters	VHF	ARES Repeater Main	145.490(-) CTCSS 141.3 Hz	Spotters/EOC	EOC to Spotter communications
EOC to Spotters	VHF	ARES Ground - HVTAC 7	146.595S CTCSS 100.0 Hz	Spotters/EOC BU	EOC to Spotter Simplex
EOC to Dispatch	VHF	DEM-VHF-1		EOC/Dispatch	Status updates for Dispatch based on ground conditions
5. Prepared by (Communications Unit)					
William Grimsbo (NOPNP)					

Briefing

Safety – Emphasis is on safety for this exercise

- Do not exceed the speed limit and always drive safely – even if it takes longer
- If there is a real emergency say **“This is Real Emergency Traffic”** on the 145.490(-) MHz repeater and the EOC will respond as required
- Do not trespass on any private property
- Always follow any transmission related to the exercise with **“This is drill traffic”**
- If questioned by law enforcement indicate that you are participating in a communications exercise and give them the following contact information:

William Grimsbo - ARES® Emergency Coordinator

Contact at: 636-219-9594

Duration - The duration of this exercise is about 2.5 hours

Exercise Objective – The objectives of this exercise are to practice passing traffic in an emergency situation in an orderly and efficient manner. The exercise will be in two phases. The first phase is a severe weather spotting and reporting exercise. Phase 2 involves windshield damage assessment. During the damage assessment phase reports will be only what can be seen from the road with eyes or binoculars. Do NOT enter any property or buildings during this phase. In both phases all traffic must be followed by “This is drill traffic.” The intent of this exercise is to demonstrate the following:

5. The ability of amateur radio volunteers to provide situational awareness (SA) information to professional responders
6. How better SA contributes to a better Common Operating Picture (COP) at the EOC
7. Practice windshield damage assessment in a full-scale scenario
8. Practice EOC activation
5. Practice orderly information transfer on a directed net

Please write down any thoughts regarding the exercise and lessons learned during the exercise for the hotwash.

Phase 1 Tornado Spotter Response

1300	1	1300	2
<p>Page out to volunteers to begin exercise</p> <p>Say "Drill Traffic" after each transmission</p>		<p>NWS announcement of severe thunderstorm warning and tornado watch in St. Charles and counties to SW and NE.</p> <p>Say "Drill Traffic" after each transmission</p>	
1310	3	1310	4
<p>County EOC activated – message sent to SEC via Winlink that exercise has started.</p> <p>Say "Drill Traffic" after each transmission</p>		<p>NCO takes check-ins for ARES® Skywarn net.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 NCOs • 1 Logger <p>Say "Drill Traffic" after each transmission</p>	
1340	5	1343	6
<p>Skywarn spotter in New Melle reports tornado sighted 3 miles SW of New Melle.</p> <p>Say "Drill Traffic" after each transmission</p>		<p>Wentzville Skywarn spotter indicates very dark clouds and indication of rotation to SSE. Estimating 8 miles away. Heavy rain and lightning in Wentzville.</p> <p>Say "Drill Traffic" after each transmission</p>	
1346	7	1349	8
<p>EOC</p> <p>NWS has issued tornado warning for St. Charles County. Cell SW of New Melle has rotation and is moving to NE at 40 mph. Warning has been verified by spotters and law enforcement</p> <p>Say "Drill Traffic" after each transmission</p>		<p>EOC informs Dispatch that a tornado warning has been issued for the New Melle area.</p> <p>Not to be read over air</p> <p>Say "Drill Traffic" after each transmission</p>	

1351	EOC	9	1354	EOC	10
<p>NWS has radar indicated tornado 5 miles SW of New Melle, moving at 40 mph.</p> <p>Announced as bulletin Say "Drill Traffic" after each transmission</p>			<p>Several New Melle and Wentzville Fire/Rescue assets moving to New Melle to respond to reported damage to Chamber of Commerce building and several homes.</p> <p>Not to be read over air</p>		
1357	Spotters	11	1400	Spotters	12
<p>Spotter in New Melle has indicated there is a tornado on the ground 1.5 miles SW of New Melle and several homes damaged. Estimated EF-3 tornado.</p> <p>Say "Drill Traffic" after each transmission</p>			<p>Spotters NW of New Melle report debris cloud moving to NE. Confirmed by spotters East of New Melle. Law enforcement confirms.</p> <p>Say "Drill Traffic" after each transmission</p>		
1403	EOC	13	1406	Spotters	14
<p>EOC informs Dispatch that responders should take cover – tornado on the ground approaching New Melle per spotters and LE confirmation.</p> <p>Not to be read over air</p>			<p>Spotter in Dardenne Prairie reports 1.25 inch hail in Dardenne Prairie.</p> <p>Say "Drill Traffic" after each transmission</p>		
1409	Spotters	15	1409	EOC	15
<p>Spotter in O'Fallon reports heavy rain, winds of 60 mph and ¾ inch hail.</p> <p>Say "Drill Traffic" after each transmission</p>			<p>EOC informs Dispatch that the tornado has moved out of New Melle headed NE at 40 mph.</p> <p>Not to be read over air</p>		

1412	EOC	16	1415	Spotters	17
<p>NWS indicates the rain cooled flanking line is moving around the back of the tornado and is weakening the tornado. Now EF-2.</p> <p>Announced as bulletin</p> <p>Say "Drill Traffic" after each transmission</p>			<p>Spotter in St. Peters reports the tornado is wrapped in rain and difficult to see but appears to be 2 miles SW of Mid-Rivers Mall.</p> <p>Say "Drill Traffic" after each transmission</p>		
1418	Spotters	18	1421	Spotters	19
<p>O'Fallon Spotter reports heavy rain and nickel sized hail by SSM hospital in Lake St. Louis.</p> <p>Say "Drill Traffic" after each transmission</p>			<p>St. Peters Spotter reports 1.5 inch hail at Mid Rivers Mall.</p> <p>Say "Drill Traffic" after each transmission</p>		

In Phase 2 – The coordinates in the lower left of the spotter reports indicate the Wunnenberg Street Map coordinates by page number and coordinates on the page. Use the ECA Field Guide Issue 8 to decode the coordinates.

Phase 2 is the damage assessment phase of the exercise. Damage is spotty and spread over several areas following a line from southwest to northeast.

Phase 2 – Damage Assessment Phase**Repeater goes down – go to HVTAC 7**

Note: Repeater will remain on the air in the event of a real exercise-related emergency.

<p>1425 Spotters 1</p> <p>Damage Assessment Report 1 from Dardenne Prairie spotter (Read DAR 1 form on air). Hilton Garden Inn – Hwy 61 & Winghaven.</p> <p>(VV-20-45) Say “Drill Traffic” after each transmission</p>	<p>1430 Spotters 2</p> <p>Damage Assessment Report 2 from Dardenne Prairie (Read DAR 2 form on air). Life Storage 7351 Rt. N.</p> <p>(UU.5-19.5-45) Say “Drill Traffic” after each transmission</p>
<p>1435 Spotters 3</p> <p>Damage Assessment Report 3 from O’Fallon spotter (Read DAR 3 on air). Golden Corral, 1301 Bramblett Rd.</p> <p>(RR.3-16.5-46) Say “Drill Traffic” after each transmission</p>	<p>1440 Spotters 4</p> <p>Damage Assessment Report 4 from New Melle spotter (Read DAR 4 on air). Damage to Bavarian Smoke Haus on Z and D.</p> <p>(FFF.5-24.5-52) Say “Drill Traffic” after each transmission</p>
<p>1445 EOC 5</p> <p>EOC acknowledges DARs 1-4</p> <p> Say “Drill Traffic” after each transmission</p>	<p>1450 Spotters 6</p> <p>New Melle Spotter reports New Melle Chamber of Commerce has damaged roof and there appears to be smoke coming from the building (Read DAR 5 over air).</p> <p>(FFF.5-24.6-52) Say “Drill Traffic” after each transmission</p>

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EOC acknowledges and moves Dardenne Prairie spotters to EOC.			New Melle reports that other than tree damage (up to 6 inch branches down) and power outage, no other significant damage seen.		
Say "Drill Traffic" after each transmission			Say "Drill Traffic" after each transmission		
1455	EOC	11	1456	EOC	12
EOC directs New Melle spotters to return to EOC.			National Weather Service has lifted the warning for St. Charles County.		
EOC reports tree damage to NWS. (Not to be read over air)			Announced as bulletin		
Say "Drill Traffic" after each transmission			Say "Drill Traffic" after each transmission		
1500	Spotters	13	1505	EOC	14
Damage Assessment Report 6 from Lake St. Louis spotter (Read DAR 6 over air). Damage to several windows in the South Tower at SSM Lk. St. Louis.			EOC acknowledges DAR 6 and moves Lk. St. Louis spotter to EOC.		
(XX.3-16.1-44) Say "Drill Traffic" after each transmission			Say "Drill Traffic" after each transmission		

1510	Spotter	15	1515	EOC	16
<p>Damage Assessment Report 7 from O’Fallon spotter (Read DAR 7 over air). Roof off of Ethyl’s Smokehouse and smoke coming from building.</p> <p>(RR-16-46) Say “Drill Traffic” after each transmission</p>			<p>EOC acknowledges DAR 7 and moves O’Fallon and Lk. St. Louis spotters to EOC.</p> <p>Say “Drill Traffic” after each transmission</p>		
1520	Spotter	17	1525	EOC	18
<p>Damage Assessment Report 8 from St. Peters Spotter (Read DAR 8 over air). St. Peters Golf Club has hail damage to cars and damage (corner of roof blown off).</p> <p>(OO-16-46) Say “Drill Traffic” after each transmission</p>			<p>EOC acknowledges DAR 8 and advises St. Peters spotters to return to EOC.</p> <p>Say “Drill Traffic” after each transmission</p>		
1526	EOC	19	<p>REPEATER BACK ON AIR</p> <p>Exercise suspended.</p>		
<p>EOC suspends exercise and orders all field units to report to EOC with all paperwork associated with the exercise.</p> <p>Announced as bulletin Say “Drill Traffic” after each transmission</p>					

Phase 3 – Demobilization, Hot Wash and Refreshments

Demobilization is taking place as spotters are directed to return to EOC in phase 2 of the exercise.

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SET 2023

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Additionally, Bill Grimsbo (N0PNP), Jeff Young (KB3HF) and Brad Barkhoef (N0AQI) participated in the exercise at the Emergency Operations Center as exercise coordinators and observers.

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