

## Dauphin County ARES Participation in EPA Simulated Emergency Test (SET)

Date May 20 – Friday: 2000L

May 21 – Saturday: 0800L

Scope Dauphin County ARES

- Objectives
1. Evaluate ARES turn out / participation in a simulated communications emergency
  2. Evaluate preparedness of county ARES units to operate on emergency power
  3. Evaluate effectiveness of county units to pass VHF / UHF message traffic to EC
  4. Evaluate effectiveness of county units to pass HF traffic on emergency power to command post (SEC / SM). **The Dauphin County EC will pass the HF message to SM /SEC.**
  5. Evaluate ability of county ARES units to pass VHF UHF message traffic via digital mode to EC

Scenario Severe Spring nor'easter affecting eastern Pennsylvania with heavy winds causing widespread power outages requiring shelter operations. EMAs activate ARES units in most EPA counties.

### Evaluation Criteria

1. 100 point scale to determine overall effectiveness.
2. Points assignment
  - A. Participation: 1 point per ARES member, 5 points per deployed station at a site designated by county EC (maximum = 30 points).
  - B. Emergency Power: 5 points per station operating on emergency power (maximum = 20 points).
  - C. VHF / UHF Message Traffic Handling: 5 points per ICS-213 message passed to county EC (maximum = 20 points).
  - D. HF Message Traffic Handling: 10 points per HF message passed to EPA SM in Northern Sector or SEC in Southern Sector (maximum = 10 points). **The Dauphin County EC will pass the HF message to SM and SEC.**

- E. Digital VHF / UHF Traffic Handling: 5 points per ICS-213 message passed to EC via digital mode (maximum = 20 points).

### Participation Guidelines

1. Each participating operator should try to actively deploy to a simulated shelter which will be the closest firehouse to their home or operate from a home station. **Do NOT contact the firehouse or attempt to activate from the firehouse.** You only need to be in proximity to the firehouse. You should set up on public street or roadway (safely) nearby. An ARES member operating from a home station = 1 point. A member deployed to a designated site = 6 points (5 for deploying and 1 for each member).
2. Each member operating from a home station or deployed to a designated site must use emergency power (battery, generator, etc.) to receive the 5-point power bonus.
3. VHF / UHF Traffic Handling must involve using an ICS-213 message form. The content of the message should simulate traffic that would be passed from a site, such as a shelter, to a recipient at a county 911 center or served agency (Red Cross, etc.). This can be passed via voice during nets. VHF Traffic passing will be on the 145.11 repeater on the following schedule:

Friday – May 20: 2000L

or

Saturday-May 21: 0800L

4. HF Traffic Handling will include passing a simple message, such as level of participation or location of deployed station. 10 points will be awarded for passing the HF traffic to either the SM in the northern sector or the SEC in the southern sector.  
**The Dauphin County EC will transmit the HF traffic since it contains the participation levels for the team.**
5. Digital VHF / UHF Traffic Handling should involve the use of a commonly used digital mode, such as packet / Winlink to pass a message in an ICS-213 format to the EC. Other digital modes may be used, but emphasis should be on Winlink for interoperability. Winlink message can be sent to K3RTS anytime before Saturday 0800L. To try to expand participation, Dauphin County will also accept fldigi messages. We will use Thor22. The fldigi message can either be as an ICS 213 form or as simple text within a transmission similar to check-in to PANBEMS Net. VHF fldigi Digital Traffic passing will be on the 145.11 repeater on the following schedule:

Friday – May 20: approx. 2030L (after voice)

or

Saturday-May 21: approx. 0830L (after voice)

6. The voice and digital traffic subject is a shelter status message including the following data:
  - a. This is a drill!
  - b. County
  - c. Shelter/firehouse Name
  - d. Operating on emergency power y/n
  - e. Number of Shelter Residents – simulated data
  - f. Number of Meals Required for next 48 Hours – simulated data
  - g. Shelter Manager or Radio Operator Name / Call sign
  - h. This is a drill!

Debriefing At the conclusion of the exercise, an analysis will be conducted to determine the overall preparedness of ARES units and to identify areas of needed improvement. Findings will be disseminated to county units.