Louisiana ARES Simulated Emergency Test

Winter Storm Nicholas With Tornado Activity
2024 SET Plan
December 14, 2024, 9 AM to 10:30 CST

Exercise Plan

Introduction

This simulated emergency test exercise plan is based on the premise that periodic emergency drills enhances the ability of emergency communicators to perform in actual emergencies and that such improves and promotes problem solving.

The Louisiana simulated emergency test will be conducted on December 14, 2024, from 0900 to 1030 CST.

In the United States, the winter tornado season typically runs from December through February, with the peak month being January. During these months, the country experiences an average of 30 reported tornadoes per year.

One of the most significant winter tornado outbreaks in recent history occurred in 2008 when a series of tornadoes hit the Southeast United States. Over a three-day period, more than 50 tornadoes were reported, causing widespread damage, and claiming the lives of 56 people. A January outbreak in 1999 spawned 131 total tornadoes, and between 1950 and 2012, there were 10 winter outbreaks that spawned at least 34 tornadoes.

The conditions that lead to winter tornadoes differ from those that produce spring and summer tornadoes. During the winter months, the polar jet stream shifts southward, bringing with it cold air from the Arctic and warm, moist air from the Gulf of Mexico. When these two air masses collide, they can produce the unstable conditions necessary for tornadoes to form. While the greatest risk is in the southern states, many winter tornadoes have occurred further north. On January 16, 2023 a tornado touched down in eastern Iowa, and the December 10, 2021 outbreak is the deadliest on record for that month. There were a total of 71 confirmed tornadoes over 24 hours, with the strongest being an EF-4 that devastated Mayfield, KY.

General Guidelines

ARRL Simulated Emergency Test (SET) Guidelines can be found at:

https://ares.arrl.org/aresset/

Winter Storm Nicholas

A squall line of intense thunderstorms is occurring parallel to and ahead of Winter Storm Nicholas which has a fast-moving, well-defined cold front. The squall line extends 100 to 300 km (60 to 80 mi.) ahead of the front with uge supercell storms causing severe weather over much its length. Wall clouds, an area of rotating clouds that extends beneath a supercell thunderstorm, are being noted all along the cold front as the front moves across Louisiana. Funnel clouds are being reported. NWS radars are showing hook echoes, indicating the presence of severe thunderstorms and the presence of mesocyclones.

This squall line enters Region 7 and 8 at 9:00 AM.
This squall line enters Region 6 at 9:15 AM.
This squall line enters Region 2,4,5 and 9 at 9:30 AM.
This squall line enters Region 1 and 3 at 9:45 AM.

The squall line precedes a period of freezing precipitation which will develop throughout the state creating a thin layer of imperceptible ice on roadways. Cars will slide off of freeways and streets resulting in accidents, including a pile-up of over 100 vehicles on your local interstate or Louisiana highway, leaving several fatalities in its wake. Due to the impassable roads and state-wide blackout, there will be shortages at grocery stores.

While the 2024 exercise plan for "Winter Storm Nicholas With Tornado Activity" sets overall weather conditions for this state, the DECs and ECs should develop local scenarios and operational challenges that are appropriate for their Parish and/or Region.

Again, this year's SET scenario is not based on just a single event, but will include various local events generated by ECs, DECs, or OHSEP managers.

During the exercise, real world emergencies, if they occur, will take priority over the simulated emergency.

For the purpose of this exercise, assume that :

- Best projection of storm path and associated data is attached.
- All commercial communication systems including LWIN are out of service due to system overload, wind and icing damage.
- Commercial power is not available at first due to sporadic wind damage followed by widespread outages due to icing damage.
- Ham radio (hf, vhf, uhf, 1.2 Ghz, etc), CB, SHARES and GMRS systems are operation

- The ICS Form 205 on pages 8 and 9 is for use during this drill. Basic statewide frequencies are shown on the form. Local tactical and command frequencies should be transferred to your local ICS Form 205 from the attached ICS Forms 217 as needed.

- The Louisiana State EOC amateur radio station has been damaged and is unable to operate. WB5LHS has been moved to Ascension Parish and is operational as per ICS Form 205 (Page 8).

The expected accomplishments of this drill include the following :

- Improved technical capabilities.
- Greater understanding of roles and responsibilities.
- Development and/or maintenance of effective partnerships with other communicators both inside and outside of your parish and District/Region.
- Development and/or maintenance of effective partnerships with the served agencies.
- Verification of emergency communications plans.

Suggested Local Activities

Each area of the state is subject to many different types of incidents and emergencies during the time leading up to and after a wide area weather event. These incidents and emergencies are influenced by local conditions.

Local road/highway conditions and residential or industrial areas contribute their own related hazards during and after a storm.

Local area ARES and OHSEP groups may choose operational issues such as :

- Haz Mat Incident
- Plane Crash
- Airport Incident
- Barges Loose on a River
- Tornado
- Traffic Related Mass Casualty Incident
- Civil Unrest
- Terrorist Activity
- Cold Related Issues

Each local scenario should be planned to utilize and involve the following as appropriate:

- The Louisiana ARES Simulated Emergency Net (See ICS Form 205).
- Health and Welfare Traffic (See ICS Form 205).
- State and local EOCs as available.

- Digital Systems if so equipped (See ICS Form 205).
- Local and linked repeaters (See ICS Form 205).
- Adjacent ARES groups.
- Local served agencies as appropriate.

Scenario Logistics

District Emergency Coordinators and parish Emergency Coordinators should contact their local served agencies, advise them of the scenario, and invite them to participate as appropriate. This participation could include the utilization of their communication facilities.

In addition to participation by served agencies, ECs and DECs may wish to involve their local emergency response agencies at a level consistent with local levels of cooperation.

While increased proficiency of communications is always a goal, in some cases the development of a better understanding by emergency response agencies of the capability of ham radio during emergency conditions is also a worthwhile goal.

When developing your scenario it would seem that one tactical and one Health and Welfare (H/W) message per served agency would be appropriate. While incoming Health and Welfare traffic is typically restricted during a real emergency, such restrictions will not exist during the SET.

Possible recipients of the messages would include :

- Louisiana EOC
- Parish OHSEP
- National Weather Service Stations
- Red Cross Chapter
- Salvation Army Stations
- Other Emergency Response Agency Stations
- Louisiana Section Manager
- Louisiana Section Emergency Coordinator
- ARRL Headquarters (wv1x@arrl.org)

Frequency Summary

The ICS Form 205 on pages 8 and 9 should be consulted for general SET frequencies. Local SET frequencies should be added as necessary from the attached ICS Forms 217.

It should be mentioned that the Louisiana ARES Emergency Net will activate at 0845 CDT on 3878 khz, followed by 7211 khz as conditions dictate. Net protocol will be as per the Louisiana ARES Emergency Communications Plan 7.1.24, https://www.wpcde-911.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/Louisiana-ARES-Emergency-Comm-Plan-7.1.24-with-Attachments.pdf

WB5LHS has been moved to Ascension Parish and is operational as per ICS Form 205 (Page 8).

Summary

Exercise participants will operate in accordance with existing plans, procedures, and practices.

The ICS Form 205 on pages 8 and 9 can be used for the assets so noted. Frequencies should be added for local tactical and command and control as appropriate from the attached ICS Forms 217.

Participants should initiate actions that will control and mitigate the simulated emergency as appropriate for their local conditions.

Specific operational events and localized emergencies should be added as necessary by the local Communications should occur as would normally be expected during a real emergency of the same type as being simulated.

There will be no movement of real assets such as fire trucks and ambulances except as required by the incident commander to ensure scene safety if a "BREAK BREAK THIS IS AN ACTUAL EMERGENCY" occurs.

Exercise Rules

- Real world emergency actions take priority over exercise actions.
- Intentional disruption of ham radio communication circuits should not be done.
- All messages and transmissions should begin and end with "**This is a Drill**"
- Formal written traffic should have a precedence letter preceded by the word "TEST", as in "TEST R", "TEST P", "TEST W", or "TEST EMERGENCY". It is customary to indicate within the text of such messages the words "TEST MESSAGE", "EXERCISE" or "THIS IS A DRILL". Using "**THIS IS A DRILL**" as the first and last groups of the text helps alert listeners to the nature of the content to avoid undue alarm.
- When formal messages are being sent, please record such messages on the Message Forms provided according to Parish plan.

Accident Reporting and Real Emergencies

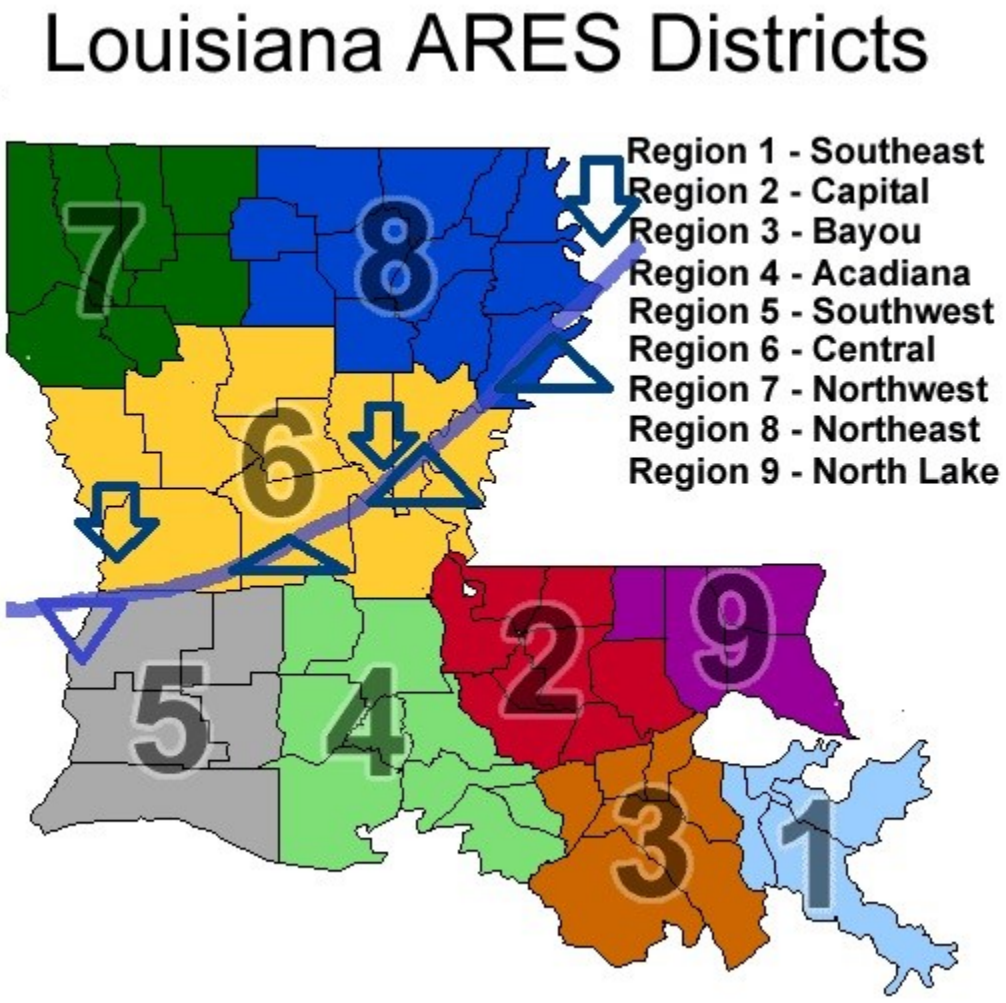
Anyone observing a participant who is seriously ill or injured who requires assistance, the phase "**BREAK BREAK THIS IS AN ACTUAL EMERGENCY**" should be immediately utilized on all necessary forms of communication.

Upon hearing "**BREAK BREAK THIS IS AN ACTUAL EMERGENCY**" all exercise communications should cease until the incident commander declares that the real life emergency is over.

EC SET Reports

DEC/ECs are reminded that their 2024 SET reports, Form A and Form B can be found at https://ares.arrl.org/aresset/ and can be submitted online subsequent to the exercise.

Cold Front With Tornado Activity



INCIDENT RADIO COMMUNICATIONS PLAN			Incident Name : SET 2024 Date Prepared : Nov.03, 2024		Operational Period Dec.14, 2024, 0900 – 1030 CDT		
#	**Function**	**Channel Name / Trunked Radio System Talkgroup**	**Assignment**	**Frequency N or W**	**Tone / NAC**	**Mode A, D or M**	**Remarks**
1	Tactical	LA ARES Emergency Net - Primary	All Parishes With Emergency Traffic	RX – 3878 TX – 3878	N/A	A	Monitored by GOHSEP
2	Tactical	LA ARES Emergency Net - Secondary	All Parishes With Emergency Traffic	RX – 7211 TX – 7211	N/A	A	Monitored by GOHSEP
3	Tactical	7290 Traffic Net-Primary	All Parishes with H/W traffic	RX – 7290 TX – 7290	N/A	A	Net operates 10 AM – 12 Noon
4	Tactical	Digital Traffic - Primary	All parishes with digital traffic	Winlink Via RMS	N/A	D	For GOHSEP SET Use RMS Ai5b@winlink.org
5	Tactical	Digital Traffic - Secondary	All parishes with digital traffic	Winlink Via RMS	N/A	D	For GOHSEP SET Use RMS Ai5b@winlink.org
8	Tactical	VHF Packet	TELPAC/Winlink	RX – 145.010 TX – 145.010		D	Not monitored by GOHSEP
11	Tactical	Livingston	VHF to GOHSEPP	RX – 147.255 TX –147.855	136.5	A	Monitored by GOHSEP
13	Tactical	N5NXL Baton Rouge	UHF to GOHSEPP	RX –444.350 TX –449.350	136.5	A	Monitored by GOHSEP

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				RX – TX –			
				RX – TX –			
				RX – TX –			
				RX – TX –			

The convention calls for frequency lists to show four digits after the decimal place, followed by either an "N" or a "W," depending on whether the frequency is narrowband or wideband. Mode refers to either "A" or "D," indicating analog or digital (e.g., Project 25) or "M," indicating mixed mode. All channels are shown as if programmed in a control station, mobile, or portable radio. Repeater and base stations must be programmed with the RX and TX reversed.

Prepared By:	**Incident Location :**		
County :	**State:**	**W Latitude**	**N Longitude**