



Emergency Radio Communications Drill September 24, 2022

City of Eugene neighborhood Damage Assessment Teams and Radio Team Leaders will participate in the city-wide emergency radio communications drill on September 24, 2022. This drill is intended to allow participants to practice neighborhood damage assessment and emergency radio communications in an exercise setting and to evaluate expectations on the use of handheld FRS/GMRS two-way radios, VHF/UHF HAM radio systems and ICS forms in a disaster.

Executive Summary

Radio communications can become an important alternate method of communication if traditional telephone and cell phone lines are disrupted. The City of Eugene Office of Emergency Management will hold an emergency radio communications drill on September 24, 2022 in Eugene, Oregon. The scenario involves a city-wide major disaster event that included the loss of regular emergency communications through telephone and cell phone systems. This exercise will allow the OEM to determine how effective alternative communications to the City's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) through low-powered portable radios and through volunteer HAM radio operators could be implemented.

Exercise Overview

Exercise Name: 2022 City of Eugene Emergency Radio Communications Drill Duration: 2 hours

Exercise Date: September 24, 2022

Sponsor: City of Eugene Office of Emergency Management

Type of Exercise: Drill

Funding Source: N/A

Program: Community Emergency Response Training

Focus: Response

Classification: Unclassified

Scenario: Major Disaster Event

Location: Eugene, OR

Participating Organizations:

City of Eugene neighborhood residents

City of Eugene Emergency Communication System Network

Number of Participants:

Neighborhood association representatives, Map Your Neighborhood Field Teams and Damage Assessment Teams and Radio Team Leaders

City of Eugene Emergency Communication System staff

City of Eugene District volunteer ham radio operators

Exercise Overview:

The City of Eugene Emergency Radio Communications Drill is a 2 hour city-wide drill designed for neighborhood community emergency communication training.

There are three main goals of this exercise:

- To evaluate radio transmission and reception to and from the City's District HAMS, District Net Control and the City Emergency Operations Center (W7ARD).
- To familiarize participants with roles necessary in emergency communications following a major disaster event.

- To provide an opportunity for participants to practice localized communications and message handling techniques over the emergency radio network.

All radio messages will first be written on the general message form ICS-213 and then logged in on the message log form ICS-309.

Message Ranking

Subject matter and time factors must be weighed when assigning rank or precedence to a message. Assigning rank to messages denotes the urgency of the messages and tells the operators the order in which messages are to be handled.

- **Emergency**
Messages of extreme urgency: these messages are to be handled as fast as possible ahead of all other messages. Lower ranked messages are interrupted until the emergency message is complete. Example: widespread civil disturbance, mass casualties and injuries, potential for mass casualties or injuries, many trapped victims
- **Priority**
Messages requiring fast action for conducting operations in progress. Example: supply requests for operations in progress, damage assessments to neighborhood infrastructure without victims
- **Routine**
Messages in which information or action must be taken in 48 hours or more. Example: long term supply request, damage assessments not involving essential service or public safety infrastructure

All radio messages will begin and end with “EXERCISE, EXERCISE, EXERCISE”

Exercise Event Synopsis

Scenario

A large scale major disaster event has occurred that has eliminated regular emergency communications by telephone and has impacted the city. The scenario necessitates alternative emergency communications through low-powered hand-held radios, through local volunteer neighborhood Damage Assessment Teams and Radio Team Leaders and HAM radio operators at neighborhood net controls. The Neighborhood Radio Team Leaders with their Damage Assessment Teams and the Eugene Emergency Communication Net Group both will self deployed after a major disaster event to assess city damage assessment and open communication link to the neighborhoods. At 1000 hours, the City's Emergency Operations Center (W7ARD) broadcasts on a pre-designated EOC frequency **147.46 MHZ Simplex** to District Net Control HAMs to obtain situation and status reports from the neighborhoods throughout the city.

Drill Timeline

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| 1000hrs | The City of Eugene EOC (W7ARD) starts roll call with the city District Net Control HAMs. "This is an exercise". |
| 1005hrs | The EOC (W7ARD) repeats roll call with city District Net Control HAMs for any late check-ins. |
| 1010hrs | The EOC (W7ARD) instructs the District Net Control HAMs to forward any neighborhood damage assessment information. |
| 1011hrs | District Net Control HAMs start roll call with the district Neighborhood Net Control HAMs. "This is an exercise". |
| 1016hrs | District Net Control HAMs repeat roll call with district Neighborhood Net Control HAMs for any late check-ins. |
| 1021hrs | District Net Control HAMs instruct district Neighborhood Net Control HAMs to forward any damage assessment information of their respective neighborhood HAMs and Radio Team Leaders. |
| 1022hrs | District neighborhood HAMs start roll call with their respective Neighborhood Radio Team Leaders. "This is an exercise". |
| 1027hrs | District neighborhood HAMs repeat roll call with their respective neighborhood Radio Team Leaders for any late check-ins. |

- 1032hrs District neighborhood HAMS instruct their respective neighborhood Radio Team Leaders to survey their neighborhood and make damage assessment using the 'damage assessment form and pass the damage assessment to the District neighborhood HAM using the ICS-213 general message form.
- 1115hrs District neighborhood Radio Team Leaders pass damage assessment on to their respective District neighborhood HAM using the ICS-213 general message form.
- 1125hrs District neighborhood HAMS pass damage assessment messages on to the District Neighborhood Net Control HAM using the ICS-213 general message form.
- 1135hrs District Neighborhood Net Control HAMS pass damage assessment messages on to the District Net Control HAMS using the ICS-213 general message form.
- 1145hrs District Net Control HAMS pass damage assessment messages on to the EOC (W7ARD) using the ICS-213 general message form.
- 1200hrs EOC (W7ARD) gives the number count of received messages from each District Net Control HAMS and instructs District Net Control HAMS to secure their respective District Neighborhood Net Control HAMS, neighborhood HAMS and neighborhood Radio Team Leaders from the 2022 City of Eugene Emergency Radio Communications Drill.

