
# Emergency Radio Communications Drill October 21, 2023

City of Eugene neighborhood Damage Assessment Teams and Radio Team Leaders will participate in the city-wide emergency radio communications drill on October 21, 2023. 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 October 21, 2023 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:** 2023 City of Eugene Emergency Radio Communications Drill Duration: 2 hours

**Exercise Date:** October 21, 2023

**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

City of Eugene Office of Emergency Management

**Number of Participants:**

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

City of Eugene Office of Emergency Management 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.
- 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 is a function of the district net control and 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 "This is an EXERCISE"**

**Exercise Event Synopsis**

**Scenario**

A large scale major disaster event has occurred at 0733 morning of October 21, 2023 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 have **self deployed** after the morning major disaster event to assess city damage and open communication links to the neighborhoods. At 1000 hours, the City's Emergency Operations Center broadcasts on a pre-designated EOC frequency **146.880** with a **100 Hz Tone**. The backup alternate frequency is **147.46 MHZ Simplex**. The broadcast is to District Net Control HAMs to obtain situation and status reports from neighborhoods throughout the city.

**Drill Timeline**

1000hrs The City of Eugene EOC starts roll call with the City District Net Control HAMs and stating the EOC is operational. **"This is an exercise"** The EOC instructs the District Net Control HAMs to forward any neighborhood damage assessment information to the EOC.

1015hrs District Net Control HAMs instruct their district Neighborhood Net Control HAMs to forward any neighborhood damage assessment information of their respective neighborhood HAMs and Radio Team Leaders. **"This is an exercise"**

1030hrs District Neighborhood Net Control hams instruct their neighborhood hams to forward any neighborhood damage assessment information.**"This is an exercise"**

1040hrs District neighborhood HAMs instruct their respective neighborhood Radio Team Leaders to forward any damage assessment information using the ICS-213 general message form. **"This is an exercise"**

The ICS-213 General Message traffic is generated from the damage assessment write up that was observed from the damage picture found in the envelope. All messages are passed up through the communication link to the EOC. All messages are to be logged on the radio log form.

1200hrs EOC gives the number count of received messages from each District Net Control HAMs to ensure number sent is number received. When number count of messages is balanced, EOC will instructs District Net Control HAMs to secure from exercise and to secure their respective District Neighborhood HAMs, neighborhood Radio Team Leaders and their damage assessment teams from the 2023 City of Eugene Emergency Radio Communications Drill.

1300hrs Exercise de-brief

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/71800906474?pwd=VUNyYmdSWEVyYkdMTnBnYWtFdEp1QT09