
SIMULATED EMERGENCY TEST

2017 Player Handbook



SET 2017 Player Handbook

Purpose

This *SET 2017 Player Handbook* provides all exercise players with information required to participate effectively in the Connecticut Section Simulated Emergency Test (SET). Players should feel free to ask questions and seek clarification concerning their roles and responsibilities and the rules of exercise play.

Anyone with questions about the exercise not answered in this *SET 2017 Player Handbook* should contact the District Emergency Coordinator (DEC) for their respective Amateur Radio Emergency Service® (ARES®) Region using their *callsign@arrl.net* for email:

Region 1 - Paul WB2JVB

Region 2 - Douglas WA1SFH

Region 3 - George AB1GL

Region 4 - Vinny KB1JDX

Region 5 - Ted K2GAV

Scope

The Connecticut Section 2017 SET will be a statewide emergency communications exercise. It is intended to test our ability to provide communications for our Served Agencies that include the Connecticut Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (DEMHS), the American Red Cross (ARC), and local municipalities (e.g., EOCs, shelters).

Exercise play will begin on *Saturday, 14 October 2017 at about 0900 EST* and end at about *2100 EST* as determined by the Exercise Director. ARES, SKYWARN, and NTS play will occur over several operational periods. The exercise will be executed at the Regional level by the respective DECs.

Quoting from the American Radio Relay League (ARRL) website:

The ARRL Simulated Emergency Test is a nationwide exercise in emergency communications, administered by ARRL Field Organization Leaders including Emergency Coordinators, District Emergency Coordinators, Section Emergency Coordinators and Net Managers. Many other Section Leaders like the Section Manager and the Section Traffic Manager may have a hand in planning the exercises and/or reviewing the results. Amateur Radio Emergency Service® (ARES®), National Traffic System (NTS), Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) and other public-service oriented groups can be involved. The SET weekend gives communicators the opportunity to focus on the emergency-communications capability within your community while interacting with NTS nets.

Please note that we are seeking maximum participation from ALL radio amateurs, not just CT ARES® members! Exercise Objectives

General guidelines for the SET are given at the following ARRL web link:

<http://www.arrl.org/public-service-field-services-forms#>

In addition to the SET purposes outlined on the ARRL website, the CT Section 2017 SET Planning Committee has established the following specific Exercise Objectives:

- (1) **Establish emergency communications (both voice and data) within and between the five CT ARES® Regions - to include fixed, mobile, and field-deployed stations.**
- (2) **Encourage the use of emergency power (battery, generator, solar, and/or mobile) by all stations during the exercise.**
- (3) **Maximize the number of amateur radio participants - the five Regional District Emergency Coordinators (DECs) will establish Resource Nets and Tactical Nets as needed and will coordinate exercise play within their respective areas.**
- (4) **Utilize National Traffic System (NTS) format for all record message traffic.**
- (5) **Coordinate and integrate interplay between ARES®, NTS, and SKYWARN™ components.**
- (6) **Incorporate appropriate elements of NIMS/ICS to the degree possible.**

Concept of Play

At the start of the exercise the scenario will require notification of response personnel and activation of the Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) for each the CT ARES® Regions. Each Region will be prepared to standup Resource, Tactical, Weather/SKYWARN™, and/or Traffic Nets as needed to execute the exercise plan.

Exercise Assumptions

- Coordination of Regional responses by the DEC (or his alternate) will be essential.
- All participating agencies, departments, and organizations have in-place established emergency management plans, annexes, and procedures.
- These plans, annexes, and procedures contain preparation, mitigation, response, and recovery elements.
- Exercise players will respond in accordance with the existing plans, procedures, and policies. In the absence of applicable plans, procedures, or policies, players will be expected to apply individual and/or team initiative to satisfy response requirements.

- A multi-agency response to an emergency situation will be required to support the various communities.

Exercise Artificialities

It is recognized that certain artificialities and constraints detract from exercise realism. However, exercise players are to accept the following artificialities as a means of facilitating the accomplishment of the exercise objectives and performance criteria.

- We are purposely trying to conduct the test using a compressed timeline so that we can maximize participation by all radio amateurs in Connecticut and contiguous states. Some locations will be fully activated and staffed at the start of the exercise.
- Alert, notification, and initial activation activities will be an important part of the overall exercise.
- Non-exercise use of some resources may remove them from play.

Exercise Simulation

Simulation during this exercise may be required to compensate for non-participating organizations, individuals, and field units that would actually be deployed in a real-world response. Although simulations may detract from exercise realism, the simulated incidents (including messages from and to simulated entities) provide the means to facilitate exercise play and provide for the testing of exercise objectives and specific performance criteria.

All persons, agencies, response units, citizens, and higher levels of government not actually participating in the exercise will be represented as needed by simulation or through exercise control. When players determine the need to deploy, recall, or otherwise task any resources, they must follow existing procedures and coordinate with the appropriate ARES®, NTS, SKYWARN™, or other leadership officials as they would in an actual response. As the exercise is being played in a real-time environment, the control team will provide the players any information that they need that would have come from other sources.

Scenario Narrative

The exercise scenario will be a plausible incident (or series of incidents) that creates an urgent need for establishing emergency communications statewide.

Players should be prepared to participate in an exercise that tests their ability to meet the Exercise Objectives stated previously. You should anticipate the involvement of ARES®, NTS, and SKYWARN™, as well as actual (or simulated) activities at CT DEMHS Regional Offices, the Red Cross, and local municipal Emergency Operations Centers (EOCs) and shelters.

Details of the scenario will be disclosed as the exercise progresses.

Player Procedures and Responsibilities

Primary players in this exercise will be licensed amateur radio operators providing emergency communications support in accordance with the protocols, procedures, frequency plans, and other guidance as detailed in the ARES® Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) in effect for their respective CT ARES® Region.

Coordination and execution of the exercise plan within each of the five CT ARES® Regions will be the responsibility of the District Emergency Coordinator (DEC) or his designee, as well as Assistant DECs (ADECs), and local or zone Emergency Coordinators (ECs).

Safety and Security

All voice exchanges should begin and end with the phrase "This is a drill." Written messages should contain the word "Test" as part of the precedence, e.g., Test Priority, in the message preamble. Written messages should also include the phrase "This is a drill" as the first words in the text (or body) of the message.

Should an ACTUAL emergency occur at any time during the exercise that dictates that play should stop, the phrase "REAL WORLD" (preferably repeated three times) shall be used to indicate that exercise play is suspended until further notice or until the emergency is resolved. ARES® officials with knowledge of the actual emergency situation should inform the Regional DEC, the Exercise Director, and the Section Emergency Coordinator (SEC) of any pertinent details of the situation as soon as practicable.

Communications

Communications during the SET will be in accordance with the respective Emergency Operations Plans (EOP) as promulgated for each of the five CT ARES®/DEMHS Regions.

The District Emergency Coordinator (DEC) should ensure that contingencies are in place to ensure that Net Control Stations (NCS) are designated and prepared to conduct their respective Resource, Tactical, and/or Traffic Nets.

Statewide coordination and message handling between CT ARES® Regions will be accomplished through multiple redundant channels to include but not limited to:

- CT-ARES DMR Network (used by ARES Leadership for Command & Control)
- Wide area coverage VHF repeaters (e.g., W1EDH Glastonbury, W1BCG Killingworth)
- Linked VHF/UHF repeater systems (e.g., KB1AEV, PVRA, NARA)
- HF SSB on 3.965 MHz LSB and/or 7.280 MHz LSB
- VHF packet using WL2K peer-to-peer and via RMS Gateways (e.g., W1SP-3)
- VHF "classic" packet using peer-to-peer connections and FlexNet (e.g., W1EDH-4)
- Landline (voice/fax) and cellular (voice/text) telephones (if available)

Reporting

Immediately after the conclusion of the exercise, responsible officials (Emergency Coordinators at all levels and Net Managers) should complete the appropriate SET Report form (included in this handbook) - while the information is fresh and they are still engaged in the exercise process!! These reports should be submitted to the District Emergency Coordinator (DEC) for the Region involved without delay! It is ***absolutely critical*** to the SET reporting process that this be done in a timely manner, i.e., not later than two weeks after the exercise!!

The DECs will gather their Region's reports and then forward them electronically to Mike Walters (email: W8ZY@Hotmail.Com), the Section Emergency Coordinator (SEC) within four weeks of the exercise. The SEC will then make the final submission to the ARRL on behalf of the Connecticut Section.

Electronic versions of the ARRL SET Report Form A (EC's) & SET Report Form B (NM's) can be downloaded from the CT ARES website by following this web link :

<http://www.ctares.org/set17.php>

Any logs or other records produced as part of this exercise should be retained by the responsible person or organization.

To the maximum extent possible, DECs are encouraged to conduct after-action critiques to solicit comments and lessons learned. Collection and submission of input to the respective DEC from exercise players and observers is highly desirable.

Administrative Details

Anyone with questions or comments about the 2017 SET should contact their District Emergency (DEC) using their *callsign@arrl.net* for email:

Paul WB2JVB, DEC Region 1

Douglas WA1SFH, DEC Region 2

George AB1GL DEC Region 3

Vinny KB1JDX DEC Region 4

Ted K2GAV, DEC Region 5

Steve K1SJW, DEC SKYWARN™

Acknowledgements

This *SET 2017 Player Handbook* was produced using the Player Handbook template provided as part of the FEMA IS-139 Exercise Design course.