

## 2016 Georgia Simulated Emergency Test

For 2016 we are trying something new and a change of pace from anything we've done in the past. Rather than a contrived drill, we are focusing on real world applications of our emergency communications capabilities.

As you all know, we've been emphasizing digital communications for the past few years. The reason for this is many of our served agencies are VERY interested in the capabilities we can provide with this mode. Another area is the ability to communicate "off grid". We check our emergency power capabilities the first Sunday of each month on the State ARES net. A good deep-cycle battery runs between 88 – 100 dollars. If you devote a little over 10 dollars per month or about 33 cents per day, you can purchase a battery for emergency power by the time the SET comes around. **Some type of emergency power capability is something ALL ARES MEMBERS MUST HAVE!!!!**

Our 2016 SET will be completed in two parts:

### Part 1: Normal day of the SET in October.

Conduct a local net on emergency power. The EC or his/her designee calls a local net on a repeater designated with back up emergency power per the ARRL repeater directory. Only emergency power or battery power check ins will count. Results can be relayed to the State net.

Conduct a State net on emergency power. At the discretion of the SEC and STM we may have multiple nets on 160, 80, 60, and 40 meters. Only emergency power check ins will count.

Check into WX4GMA via Winlink, FLDigi, or DRats by sending an ICS 213. One hop MUST be via RF.

Details for these nets will be published closer to the time of the SET.

### Part 2: Any time during the year.

1. Participate in an actual emergency communication activation AND you:
  - a. Report the event to the SEC & STM
  - b. Send an ICS 213 via Winlink, FLDigi, or DRats to WX4GMA (with cc: to the SEC) BRIEFLY describing your event. One hop MUST be via RF.

And/or

2. Set up and provide communications for a special or public service event such as: GA Jewel, GA Death Race, Peachtree Road Race, MS 150, triathlons, marathons, parades, etc., AND you:
  - a. Provide actual or simulated emergency communications
  - b. Report the event to the SEC & STM
  - c. Send an ICS 213 via Winlink, FLDigi, or DRats to WX4GMA (with cc: to the SEC) BRIEFLY describing your event. One hop MUST be via RF.

## Examples:

You are working a 10K race and one of the runners starts having chest pains. You pass this emergency traffic to your net control who passes the traffic to EMS. When the race is over, Net Control prepares an ICS-213 describing the event and passes the form via HF Winlink to WX4GMA with a copy to the SEC and STM. A follow up report to the SEC describes the whole event, (race, participants, issues, after-action items, etc.) in greater detail. You have completed the requirements of the SET!

Towards the end of your triathlon, one of your aid stations sends a message to net control reporting a traffic accident with injuries. This message is passed to police and EMS. After the event, you follow up with appropriate reporting to the SEC and STM. You don't have RF digital capability, but one of your ARES members does. You send an appropriate email to this member who initiates a digital message via RF to a VHF gateway. The message is on an ICS 213 to WX4GMA with a copy to the SEC and STM. You have completed the requirements of the SET!

A contractor's back hoe cuts the fiber to your E-911 center severely degrading communications to their radio system. The EMA activates your ARES group and sends you to the E-911 center and various Public Safety locations. You provide communications until normal services are restored. You send a report of this incident and your participation to the SEC and STM. (Some redaction may be necessary for security reasons.) You have completed the requirements of the SET!

Reporting: Please ensure your hard work and efforts get recognized! Remember to include the number of Hams working the event and the total number of Ham-hours involved. Remember the time you took to prepare for this event, (including meetings with event organizers, training, coordinating, etc.) all need to be accounted for. In other words, there is a lot of work that gets done before things happen that makes a smooth operation possible.

A word of caution: If you are going to conduct a drill during part of a real event, ensure ALL parties are OK with the drill. A good time might be as the event is winding down. Perhaps consider a missing child scenario that would involve all participants on a limited basis. How quickly can you get a description out to everyone? How will the search be organized? Who will take the lead in the unified command? You might even be able to find a child-actor who will play the role of the missing child. Be creative.