



2023 ANNUAL REPORT

COMMUNICATIONS TEAM

The EPC Communication's Team is currently supported by twelve (12) volunteers from our community, many of which are members of the Villages Amateur Radio Club. The following significant changes have happened within this team in 2023:

1. We added two new team members, Barbara Berman and Adrien Fournier (past Director).
2. Based on multiple testing exercises throughout the year, we modified the locations of Radio Groups A, B and C for better reception.
3. We helped identify aid stations that need to be re-located for better reception.
4. We modified our procedures to include using magnetic-mount antennas on cars to aid in reception and provide a workable solution for when it is dark, raining, cold or we need to be mobile. The car can also be used for powering the radio.
5. A new GMRS base station with remote antenna was added to support the needs of the specialty groups and VEOC staff when they are unable to establish communications with their members. This base station will be located within the VEOC.
6. The Annual Drill was conducted in the Cribari Plaza and was the most successful communications we have experienced. A few modifications were identified and successfully tested in November. We will continue testing and fine tuning the setup in 2024.
7. Quarterly training and review with all Comms Team Members will be conducted in 2024. In addition, we will continue to train the specialty teams and sector chiefs in the operation of the radios.
8. We added a new volunteer group within the Comms Team called "Runners". These volunteers will have their own radio operating on channel 10 to help facilitate forms being taken from the Radio Groups A, B, and C and delivered to the appropriate specialty team and the Incident Commander. This group will be staffed, trained, and deployed in 2024.

Submitted by **Kyle Finley**