



## 2020 SIMULATED EMERGENCY TEST (SET) PLAYERS HANDBOOK



### Introduction

This SET 2020 Player Handbook provides all exercise players with information required to participate effectively in the Delta-Greely Area ARES Simulated Emergency Test (SET) on Saturday, 3 October 2020, sponsored by the Delta Amateur Radio Club, Inc., Alaska. 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 Player Handbook should contact the Delta Area Emergency Coordinator (DEC) or the local designated SET manager, respective email: Jeff – KL2NL ([KL2NL@arrl.net](mailto:KL2NL@arrl.net)) or Brian – KL2AV ([KL2AV@arrl.net](mailto:KL2AV@arrl.net)).

### Scope

The 2020 SET will be a limited local, state and national emergency communications exercise. It is intended to test our ability to provide communications for our Served Agencies including the Deltana Community Corporation (DCC), Rural Deltana Volunteer Fire Department (RDVFD), City of Delta Junction, the American Red Cross (ARC), and Division of Forestry among other state, local and private agencies. Exercise play will begin on Saturday, 3 October 2020 at about 0900 AKST and end at about 1700 AKST as determined by the Exercise Director / Emergency Coordinator. ARES and NTS play will occur over several *simulated* operational periods. The exercise will be executed at State and Regional levels by their respective S/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 AK 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#>

DARC report forms and emergency operating information can be found at: [www.kl7drc.org](http://www.kl7drc.org). In addition to the SET purposes outlined on the ARRL website, the 2020 DARC SET planners have established the following specific Exercise Objectives (EOs):

- EO 1. Establish emergency communications (both voice and data) within and between AK ARES® sections – to include fixed, mobile, and field-deployed stations (simulated).
- EO 2. Encourage the use of emergency power (battery, generator, solar, and/or mobile) by all stations during the exercise.
- EO 3. Maximize the number of amateur radio participants.
- EO 4. Utilize National Traffic System (NTS) and/or ICS-213 (RRI) format for all record message traffic.
- EO 5. Incorporate appropriate elements of NIMS/ICS and local CERT assets to the degree possible.

## Concept of Play

At the start of the exercise the scenario will require alert notification of response personnel and activation of the Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) for DARC ARES®. DARC ARES will be prepared to standup appropriate Nets as needed to execute the exercise plan, per DARC EOP.

## Exercise Assumptions

- Coordination of area responses by the EC (or his alternate) will be simulated.
- All simulated agencies, departments, and organizations have in-place established emergency management plans, annexes, and procedures. That these plans, annexes, and procedures contain preparation, mitigation, response, and recovery elements.
- Exercise players will simulate response in accordance with the existing plans, procedures, and policies.
- A multi-agency response (simulated) 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 our area and contiguous areas. Home locations will be used to simulate fully activated and staffed field or agency locations at the start of the exercise.
- Each participant (team) will be provided a script and direction prior to the start of the exercise to simulate field, agency representative or public communications requests.
- Alert, notification, and initial activation activities will be an important part of the overall exercise. Some of these efforts will be simulated for exercise 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 or other leadership officials as they would in an actual response. As the exercise is being played in a real-time environment, the EC 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 create an urgent need for establishing emergency communications state and nation-wide. 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 as well as actual (or simulated) activities at Delta City Hall, Delta school complex, Clinic(s), RDVFD Clearwater Station, Red Cross, and Alaska State Emergency Operations Centers (EOCs) and shelters (all simulated).

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 DARC ARES® Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) in effect for our Alaska ARES® Region. SET coordination and execution of the exercise plan within each of the 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 EC and/or Exercise Director of any pertinent details of the situation as soon as practicable.

## Communications

Communications during the SET will be in accordance with the DARC Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) as promulgated for Delta Amateur Radio Club (DARC) ARES. The DARC ARES EOP is located on the DARC website at [www.kl7drc.org](http://www.kl7drc.org).

The Emergency Coordinator (EC) will ensure that contingencies are in place to ensure that the Net Control Station (NCS) is designated and prepared to conduct respective Resource, Tactical, and/or Traffic Nets (or combination thereof).

Statewide coordination and message handling will be accomplished through multiple redundant channels to include but not limited to:

- **UHF Primary Repeater (KL7DRC - Delta Junction – 444.600+ (PL 103.5))**
- **VHF Input (cross-band to 444.6 - 146.76– (PL 103.5))**
- **HF SSB on 3.920 MHz LSB and/or 5.187 and 7.093 MHz LSB**
- **VHF and HF WinLink using peer-to-peer and RMS Gateways (TBD)**
- **DARC DMR Network (TBD)**
- **Landline (voice/fax) and cellular (voice/text) telephones (if available per exercise play scenarios)**

Exercise play will include contacts over HF SSB and DMR/Winlink (if available) to pass message traffic.

## Reporting

Any logs or other records (ICS-213 message forms, SITREPs, etc.) produced as part of this exercise should be retained by the responsible person and passed either in paper form or electronically to the EC as soon as possible after the exercise. To the maximum extent possible, DARC ARES members are encouraged to conduct their own after-action critiques, write comments and lessons learned. Collection and submission of inputs will be coordinated by the EC and discussed at the November, 2020 DARC Monthly Meeting.