

TEXAS STATE-WIDE EXERCISE

SCENARIO AND GUIDELINES

Purpose

The purpose of the Texas State-Wide Exercise (SWE) is to demonstrate the ability of Texas State RACES Amateur Radio Operators to provide useful, accurate and timely information using amateur radio communications and digital communications via Winlink Peer to Peer (P2P) to further the mission of the Texas State RACES organization and jurisdictions that we serve. The exercise will seek to improve verbal and digital communications (P2P) skills that result after an extraordinary event.

Objectives

- Texas State RACES Operators, in a plausible scenario where the conventional communications may be compromised, will first verbally communicate through UHF, or VHF, or HF, a pre-determined information request (see Scenario and Exercise Task (*) below). Then, using the same information, send a Winlink Check-In Form P2P to their designated Net Control Stations.
- Prepare and train Texas RACES operators to effectively transmit/receive emergency radio communications and transcribe such information into the messaging segment of a Winlink Check-In form using Peer to Peer messaging.
- Determine weaknesses that future training can address.

Exercise Scenario

EXERCISE - EXERCISE

OPERATION URGENT NEED

September 23, 2022, 1400 hours, Austin, Texas.

Due to the unusual continued heat wave, wildland fires, and hurricane threats for Texas, The Texas Division of Emergency Management has task Texas State RACES to obtain the following information from active operators residing within RACES districts and regions.

Information Requested:

1. School(s) – Number
2. Hospital(s) – Number
3. Power Plant(s) – Number
4. Water Treatment Plants(s) - Number
5. Storm Shelter(s) – Number

At this time, no other additional information is required by TDEM, other than the aforementioned.

It is known that not all counties have active operators. The requested information from those areas will be obtained by other means.

Operators will be notified about reporting guidelines ASAP*.

**Read this document*.*

Exercise Overview

For the purposes of this exercise, it will be assumed that power, internet, and phone services may be partially disrupted.

Command Procedures and Responsibilities

All Regional Radio Officers are encouraged to participate in this exercise. Within each of their regions, they are asked to act as a Focal Point. Regional Radio Officers should work with their District Radio Officers to ensure Texas State RACES communications during the exercise are in accordance with the protocols, procedures, frequency plans, and their local established plans.

Each Texas RACES member is responsible for communicating the requested information to the collection point as defined by the DRO and RRO for their jurisdiction.

Regional Radio Officer Role

- Act as a Focal Point within their region and receive exercise traffic.
- Coordinate with District Radio Officer(s) (DRO(s)) to establish and execute a local communications plan, maximizes involvement, and optimizes responsiveness.
- Maximize the participation of RACES operators in their district(s).
- Forward a summary of messages collected to K5SOC on the 3rd day, Sunday, of the Exercise using Winlink P-to-P.
- Coordinate with the State Operations Center (SOC) representative and/or Exercise Team before or during the exercise for questions or problems.
- With the input of operators and DRO(s), prepare an After-Action Review containing Sustainment (what we did good), Improvements, and Quick fixes.

District Radio Officer Role

- Coordinate with the Regional Radio Officer to establish and execute local plan(s), involvement and responses.
- Establish communications nets within their counties.
- Create the plan with the RRO to get the two messages from each member to the Collection Point(s) in your Region.
- Maximize the participation of all Texas RACES operators, including new operators, those that are new to digital, and the dinosaurs!
- Provide input for an After-Action Review.

County Liaison Operators Role

- Check your equipment.
- Ascertain how your local net will operate. Become familiar with your UHF, VHF, and HF frequencies to be used in your district.
- Obtain a city, county, regional paper map (yes, paper). You might actually need a paper map if the power is out. These can be found at your local Chamber of Commerce offices, usually for free. *Key Maps* are available at bookstores and Keymaps.com.
- Using your maps, familiarize yourself with your QTH or assignment area for a two-mile radius. Mark it with notable features i.e. schools,

hospitals, railroads, main highways, elder care facilities, power plants, water treatment facilities, main road(s), and storm shelter(s).

- Before the exercise, operators new or experienced in Winlink are asked to contact another operator and practice sending/receiving Peer to Peer messages.
- Record your activity during the exercise and provide input for an After-Action Review.

***Exercise Tasks**

- Operators should follow their district exercise voice and digital radio plans.
- Operators are asked to compose a voice radio message using an ICS-213 form that will be transmitted by voice to their Net Control Station. Information will be available from the study of your local map within the two-mile radius. Using the prepared ICS-213, transmit the following information:
 1. School(s) – Number.
 2. Hospital(s) – Number.
 3. Power Plant(s) – Number.
 4. Water Treatment Plant(s) – Number.
 5. Storm Shelter(s) – Number.
- Operators are asked to compose a Winlink Check-In Form, including the above requested information. This form is found under the Select Template in Winlink. Operators will need to input their GPS coordinates and grid square information into the form. The form has instructions to accomplish this task. See attached examples. Prepare and send a P2P message via UHF, or VHF, or HF. Your RRO/DRO will provide frequency, time and callsign(s) for target station(s) receiving this message.
- *These requested voice and digital radio tasks are for statewide evaluation. Again, follow your District/Regional plans*
- ***A collection station will be assigned, and you will be notified of their callsign, frequency and mode by your RRO/DRO.***

Exercise Activities and Timeline

The State Wide Exercise will cover four periods of time.

SWE will begin on a Friday evening. Continue through 2 periods on Saturday and conclude with the 4th Sunday evening Texas State RACES HF net on 3.975 MHz/60M Ch.1.

Safety

For those that may have operators on an outside assignment and/or erecting antennas, setting up generators, working near highways or waterways, safety should be foremost in everyone's mind.

Always include with verbal or digital traffic, **THIS IS AN EXERCISE.**

Should an actual emergency occur, and the exercise needs to take a time-out or cease, monitor [TexasRACES@Groups.io](https://texasraces.groups.io) throughout exercise. Also, follow your District/Regional communications plan.