

ARES District 4 Net Script

Oct. 4, 2018 Rev. A (net date)

Script Rev 06-22-2018

Good Evening everyone and welcome to the South Texas District 4 ARES net. This is

TOM (name) K5BV (call)

ARES EC FOR ARANSAS AND SAN PATRICIO COUNTIES

(position e.g. member, AEC, etc. & County)

I will be the Net Control Station for tonight's net. First, if there are any stations with priority or emergency traffic please call K5BV (call) at this time. UN-KEY

Either say "**nothing heard**" or handle the traffic immediately.

All hams in all Counties are welcome to check in to this net. You do not need to be an ARES member to participate in this net.

The purpose of ARES, the Amateur Radio Emergency Service, is to furnish emergency communications via amateur radio when regular means of communications fail or become inadequate during an emergency situation. ARES is sponsored by the ARRL, and supported by area radio clubs and individual hams. The only qualifications for ARES are that you possess an amateur radio license and you have a desire to help others. For more information or off-net questions please contact one of the following by email

Mark Dist. 4 EC ----- ad5ca@arrl.net
Tom EC for Aransas & San Patricio County ----- k5bv@arrl.net
Bob Asst EC for Aransas County----- kf5cfu@arrl.net
Jim EC for Live Oak County----- w5im@arrl.net
Harley EC for Kelberg County ----- kg5ayd@arrl.net

The net is currently scheduled monthly for the First Thursday at 8 PM. This is subject to change. We are currently using the 146.060 repeater in Corpus Christi with a (+) PLUS offset and a 107.2 tone.

This net is being conducted for the purpose of providing training and information related to emergency communications; to serve as a forum for discussion; and to foster fellowship among Amateur Radio operators.

Next, are there any operators who would like to make announcement or provide information related to EmComm? This is not general check-in. Please state your call now.

Tonight after Check-In **will be a discussion of the annual ARRL Simulated Emergency Test or SET.**

For Check-In, if the frequency has been clear a second or two key the MIC and s-l-o-w-y give your FCC call sign using ITU phonetics spoken clearly and slowly and UNKEY. Stating your name as well will be appreciated. Writing calls down takes a moment so allow a couple of seconds. Keep checking in and calls will be reviewed for clarifications, errors and missed calls. Please check-in with **K5BV** (Call) now.

(note these actions)

- *read each call back,*
- *ask for corrections*
- *ask for additional check-ins*

We will have comments after the tonight's material on **ARRL annual SET.**

(after handed back)

Mark, AD5CA, anything you would like to add to this?

Before we go down the list for comments if there any late check-ins please provide your call now.

(again note these actions)

- *read each call back,*
- *ask for corrections*

Net Control **K5BV** (*your call*) will now go down the list for comments.

- *go down list of check-ins*
- *now have presenter give their comments)*

Final call for check-ins. Additional stations for the net please check-in now with **K5BV** (*your call*).

(again note these actions)

- *read each call back,*
- *ask for corrections*
- *ask for comments*

THIS IS NET. We had XX check-ins tonight. Thank you all for joining the ARES net tonight, and thanks to the repeater owners and maintainers for the use of these fine repeaters. I am now closing the net and returning these repeaters back to normal amateur radio use. Stations may remain on frequency to make additional QSOs.

Net Control _____ (*your call*) Out.

FCC CALL

NAME

DATE 10 - 04 - 2018

01 _____

_____ *(ENTER NET CONTROL)*

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ARRL Annual Simulated Emergency Test (SET)

First so no one is wondering - there will not be an ARES South Texas Dist. 4 SET Saturday October 6th.

Background

One of the goals of ARRL SET is to provide a public demonstration to served agencies and the public of the value of Amateur Radio.

The SET weekend is in October and is announced in *QST*. This year's national the date is October 6th.

If the national date is inconvenient for any Section or local group, they may conduct their SET anytime between September 1st and November 30th, although this may diminish its usefulness. The activity period for the SET should not exceed 48 hours.

Goals of the SET

The general goals for all participants include the following:

1. To discover the strengths and weaknesses of ARES and NTS, the Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES), and other groups providing Amateur Radio emergency communications by testing operational plans and skills
2. To test the full range of systems under realistic conditions
3. To provide a public demonstration to served agencies such as Red Cross and emergency management agencies of Amateur Radio's value to the public in time of need
4. To help operators gain further experiences using standard procedures and a variety of modes under simulated emergency conditions.
5. With the help of the scoring system, compare performance with previous years and other groups to help maintain a program of continuous improvement.

Each Section and local group should set its own goals for the SET. If the Section establishes the basic scenario, such as a hurricane or tornado, the local group's goals should fit into the Section's plan.

The testing of the entire system includes but is not limited to:

- VHF and UHF Simplex
- VHF and UHF repeaters
- HF station to station as well as national HF Traffic Nets
- Digital messaging that includes WINMOR

There is a SET National Scoring Format and Local Scoring. Personally I cannot recall any past local scoring. Maybe others will address this tonight.

A limitation I have observed in past ARRL SETS is that almost all served agency locations are simulated. This is because the ARRL SET is always on Saturday. There have been Hurricane Exercises in the Spring known as HURREX that are on weekdays and always involve local EOCs.

The October date with options of September through November is not be best months to prepare our area for the Atlantic hurricane season that is June 1st to November 30th. The local highest risk typically 15th of July through the 20th of September.

**From EC-016 Course for Reference Only
Topic 10d: Training**

10d - 1 ARRL Simulated Emergency Test (SET)

Objectives

Upon completion of this topic, the user will comprehend the:

- Goals and format of the SET
- Importance of the SET in the annual training and drill program
- SET scoring and reporting system
- Preparation for the SET
- Post-SET functions.

Student Preparation Required:

None required for this Learning Topic.

10d - 2 ARRL Simulated Emergency Test (SET)

The Simulated Emergency Test (SET)



One of the goals of SET is to provide a public demonstration - to served agencies and the public - of the value of Amateur Radio. The DeSoto County RACES/ARES group in Mississippi took part in a successful open house with the Nesbit Fire Department to show how Emergency Management deploys to provide public service and communication support.

The ARRL Simulated Emergency Test is a scored nationwide full-scale emergency communication exercise involving ARES, NTS, and others. The SET weekend gives ARES communicators the opportunity to test the emergency communication capability within their community while interacting with NTS nets. The SET weekend is held in October and is announced in *QST*. If the national date is inconvenient for any Section or local group, they may conduct their SET anytime between September 1st and November 30th, although this may diminish its usefulness. The activity period for the SET should not exceed 48 hours.

The Simulated Emergency Test is an essential element in the annual training plan for all ARES groups and NTS nets. Many groups will hold several smaller “partial system” exercises leading up to the SET, and use the SET as an annual full-scale test of their systems.

10d - 3 ARRL Simulated Emergency Test (SET)

Goals of the SET

The general goals for all participants include the following:

1. To discover the strengths and weaknesses of ARES and NTS, the Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES), and other groups providing Amateur Radio emergency communications by testing operational plans and skills
2. To test the full range of systems under realistic conditions
3. To provide a public demonstration to served agencies such as Red Cross and emergency management agencies of Amateur Radio's value to the public in time of need
4. To help operators gain further experiences using standard procedures and a variety of modes under simulated emergency conditions.
5. With the help of the scoring system, compare performance with previous years and other groups to help maintain a program of continuous improvement.

10d - 4 ARRL Simulated Emergency Test (SET)

Goals of the SET: continued

Each Section and local group should set its own goals for the SET. If the Section establishes the basic scenario, such as a hurricane or tornado, the local group's goals should fit into the Section's plan.

In addition to the overall goal of testing the entire system, all goals should be as specific as possible. For instance, you might want to stress a particular net or mode, such as packet, to see what its capabilities are under load and how it interfaces with other system elements. If a new reporting form is being used, this is a good chance to see how it works in a total-system test. Be sure your SET plan reflects the goal and provides clear guidance for all participants.

Beware of setting too many smaller goals for one SET, unless the goal is to create confusion and high levels of stress. This is not recommended for a drill situation in most cases, unless your volunteers have been prepared for it and warned well in advance. Volunteers who will accept high stress levels in a real emergency may not be willing to do so during a drill, and you might lose some members.

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SET National Scoring Format

The nationwide scoring system implemented by ARRL allows ARES groups to compare their scores with those of other groups, and with their own scores from previous years. The items scored reflect the SET's broad objectives, and encourage the following:

- Participation by as many members as possible
- Recruitment of new Amateur Radio operators into emergency communications groups
- Use of digital modes for handling high-volume traffic
- Messages originated on behalf of served agencies
- Point-to-point Welfare reports out of an affected simulated disaster area
- Publicity.

10d - 6 ARRL Simulated Emergency Test (SET)

Local Scoring

In addition to the **official** ARRL scores, your group might wish to measure other aspects of your group's performance. Local scores can provide an essential basis for corrective feedback to your group and can assist in tracking group progress over time. These scores should be kept separate from the ARRL scores to avoid confusion.

Developing local scores entails three steps:

1. Identify the specific items you wish to measure,
2. Establish a standard of performance for each (such as "at least 80% participation or accuracy"),
3. Assign each standard a numerical score.

You can "weight" the importance of the various standards by assigning different points to each. For instance, if you wish to place greater emphasis on participation, you might assign "80% participation" a score of 20 points, while "coming prepared with a bag lunch" might only be worth one point. To make it easier to understand and compare scores, the total possible local score should be 100.

10d - 7 ARRL Simulated Emergency Test (SET)

NTS in the SET

The SET plan should test the main emergency functions of NTS - tying together the various local nets in an affected area, and moving messages into and out of the affected area. NTS Section level net managers should contact their local counterparts to ensure that NTS nets will be available at the times required in the SET plan.

Liaison stations, particularly at the Section level, handle the interface between NTS and ARES. Responsibility for representation of the local network on the Section nets lies with the local Net Manager. Testing this linkage is a key objective of the SET.

10d - 8 ARRL Simulated Emergency Test (SET)

Preparing for the SET

Once a plan is developed, a meeting of all group members and prospective members should be called to briefly outline SET activities, and give general instructions. ECs should contact served agencies and explain the intent and overall purpose of the SET, offer to send test messages to other branches of their agencies, and invite officials to ARES meetings and SET operating sites. Publicity through local newspapers and radio/TV stations can be arranged in consultation with a local or Section ARRL Public Information Officer.

10d - 9 ARRL Simulated Emergency Test (SET)

During the SET

The simulated "disaster" is announced and the emergency net is activated. Stations are dispatched to activate stations at served agencies. Designated stations originate messages on behalf of served agencies. Test messages may be sent simulating requests for supplies, or notifying agency staff of the "current situation."

Simulated emergency messages, (just like real emergency messages), should be signed by an authorized official, **but only if they are participating**. However, it is vitally important that *all* test messages begin and end with a statement that it is a "drill," "exercise," or "simulated" message. You really cannot say it too often - you should even insert it into the middle of a long message. If this is not done, members of the public or news agencies with scanners might mistake the messages for the "real thing" - it has happened.

10d - 10 ARRL Simulated Emergency Test (SET)

After the SET

As soon as possible after the SET has ended, participants should meet in person or on the air to analyze and discuss the test results. For this reason, it is always a good idea to ask each participant to take appropriate notes during the event. Identify the efforts that worked as intended as well as those that did not. Make specific recommendations for changes to plans and needs for specific training.

A complete set of reporting forms are automatically mailed to appropriate ARRL Field Organization appointees, and can be furnished to other groups upon request. The deadline for receipt of all reports at ARRL HQ is January 31.

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Reference Links

For more information on the ARRL Simulated Emergency Test, see the SET Results and SET Announcement articles each spring/summer in *QST*.

For more information on any of the elements presented, please consult the following links:

ARRL Public Service Communications Manual:

<http://www.arrl.org/public-service-communications-manual>

For more general information, please see the ARRL *Operating Manual* chapter on emergency communications. See also the ARRL *ARES Field Resources Manual*. To learn more about ARES and NTS net operation, contact your Section Manager (SM), your Section Emergency Coordinator (SEC) or District Emergency Coordinator (DEC). For more localized information, see <http://www.arrl.org/sections>. See also the ARRL *Net Directory* <http://www.arrl.org/arrl-net-directory> for a list of ARES and NTS nets operating in your area.

10d - 12 ARRL Simulated Emergency Test (SET)

Student Activities

1. Identify five local, specific goals for a SET exercise. For each of the goals, develop a means of evaluating the effectiveness of your local organization.

Example:

The goal is to ensure local capability for originating NTS traffic.

The measurement might include a set of criteria (such as giving points for a correct word count or the appropriate use of the word “break” while reading a message) for scoring NTS messages.

2. During a SET, many roles are played by local operators. Design evaluation (feedback) forms for three of the roles played by local operators during a SET.

Examples:

Net Control Station, Station Operator, Logger.

The forms should provide specific positive and corrective feedback to each individual on his performance on the main functions of his role during the SET.

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Review

ARRL's Simulated Emergency Test is a nationwide test of Amateur Radio's emergency communication capabilities. SET scenarios may be developed on a local, district, or section-wide basis depending on the needs of the specific ARES organization.

10d - 14 ARRL Simulated Emergency Test (SET)

Welcome to Topic 10 Section D Knowledge Review

In order to demonstrate mastery of the information presented in the topic, you will be asked a series of un-graded questions. There are approximately 5 questions on the following pages in multiple-choice or true/false format. Feedback will be offered to you based on the answer you provide. In some cases, you may be directed back to the area of the topic where a review might benefit you in order to find the correct answer.

Topic 10d QUESTIONS

Question 1

When is the national ARRL Simulated Emergency TEST (SET) conducted?

- On selected weekdays during October.
- On a selected weekend in October.
- On a selected weekend between September and November.
- On selected weekdays between September and November.

Question 3

Which of the following is not a main function of NTS in the SET?

- Tying together the various nets in an affected area.
- Moving messages into the affected area.
- Moving messages out of the affected area.
- Linking NTS to FEMA.

Question 5

Which of the following should a SET debriefing not include?

- Identification of efforts that worked as intended.
- Identification of efforts that did not work as intended.
- Recommendations for changes to plans and additional training.
- Public humiliation of participants who made errors.

Question 2

Which of the following is not a general goal of the SET?

- To discover the strengths and weaknesses of ARES, NIS, HACES, and other groups providing emergency radio services.
- To test the full range of systems under realistic conditions.
- To provide a public demonstration to several agencies.
- To test the capabilities of CB, FRS and GMRS operators under emergency conditions.

Question 4

Which of the following words must be included in every test message during the SET?

- Break Break Break
- Mayday
- "Priority" or "Emergency"
- "Drill," "Exercise" or "Simulated"

Topic 10d ANSWERS

Question 1

When is the national ARRL Simulated Emergency TEST (SET) conducted?

- On selected weekdays during October.
- On a selected weekend in October.
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- Identification of efforts that did not work as intended.
- Recommendations for changes to plans and additional training.
- Public humiliation of participants who made errors.

Question 4

Which of the following words must be included in every test message during the SET?

- Break Break Break
- Mayday
- "Forza" or "For sure".
- "Drill," "Exercise," or "Simulated."