

## **Practical Exercise: Net Operations**

### **Purpose:**

To consider different possibilities for setting up a radio communications net for a single neighborhood CERT during an incident. Each group will then chart the radio net that the group agrees would be most advantageous to the CERT in the scenario. Each group will have the same scenario and 10 minutes to review the scenario, answer the questions to create a net plan, and then chart their plan (or fill out the ICS 205 form). Tell the participants that after 10 minutes, each group will pick a spokesperson to describe that group's net operations plan.

Stress that there are no wrong answers to the questions and that the different plans will have different strengths.

**Time:** 15 minutes

### **Instructions:**

Follow these instructions to set up the activity:

1. Divide the class into five or six small groups. If possible, put all the licensed amateur radio operators into a single group.
2. Refer participants to the communications net scenario in their Participant Manuals.
3. Instruct the participants to elect one volunteer to read the scenario aloud for their group.
4. Tell participants to answer the questions as a group. There is space in their Participant Manuals to write their solutions.
5. Give each group 10 minutes to perform this exercise.

### **Scenario:**

It is a Saturday afternoon in November. During the morning hours, a severe storm hit the community with unexpected force. Winds in excess of 50 mph have brought down trees and power lines all over the city. Many roadways are blocked by trees and other debris from the storm. It is 1:30 p.m. and the storm has ended.

Following the city's protocol, your neighborhood CERT, "SW CERT," has activated and nine Team members have been able to show up at the pre-designated meeting place. Six untrained neighbors have also arrived and are willing and able to help. A command post has been established at 7th St. & Oak. The Team Leader has been identified.

The Team Leader has identified Team members for the following positions: Operations Leader, Search and Rescue Group Leader, Medical Group Leader, and Command Post Radio Operator. Each person will communicate via radio.

Following the city's protocol, the Team Leader has had the Command Post Radio Operator inform the city's Emergency Operation Center that the SW CERT is in action and operating from 7th St. & Oak.

Based on initial damage assessment performed by Team members, the CERT's first priority is the community center, which had been damaged during the storm. Eight people who had been at a class at the community center and decided to remain there to wait out the storm were injured when a tree came through the window. They are being moved by the Search and Rescue Group to a treatment area in an undamaged part of the building.

The Medical Group is taking care of the victims there.

At this point in the operation:

- In addition to the city's Emergency Operation Center, with whom does the Team Leader of SW CERT need to communicate?
- With whom does the Operations Leader of SW CERT need to communicate?
- With whom does the Search and Rescue Group Leader of SW CERT need to communicate?
- With whom does the Medical Group Leader of SW CERT need to communicate?
- Given the current communications needs, should the SW CERT set up Net Operations?

The EOC radios the Team Leader with two messages:

- A sparking downed power line has been reported just two blocks from the SW CERT's command post. Could the CERT check it out immediately?
- CERT members from an adjoining neighborhood are able to assist the SW CERT if help is needed.

The Team Leader acknowledges both messages and sends a CERT member with two of the untrained volunteers to check out the downed power line.

- In addition to the city's Emergency Operation Center, with whom does the Team Leader of SW CERT now need to communicate?
- With whom does the Operations Leader of SW CERT now need to communicate?
- Given the current communications needs, should the SW CERT set up Net Operations now?

### **Debrief:**

At the end of the small group discussion (10 minutes), ask each group to pick a spokesperson to report the group's conclusion about a Net Operations Plan.

### **Ask if anyone has any questions on Net Operations.**

Explain that the next topic will cover on-air techniques and discipline.

**Scenario Questions:**

At this point in the operation:

In addition to the city's Emergency Operation Center, with whom does the Team

Leader of SW CERT need to communicate?

With whom does the Operations Leader of SW CERT need to communicate?

With whom does the Search and Rescue Group Leader of SW CERT need to communicate?

With whom does the Medical Group Leader of SW CERT need to communicate?

Given the current communications needs, should the SW CERT set up Net Operations?