

The Monitor



April 2004

Upcoming Events

- TSRC Meeting April 10, 2004, 9:00am
EBAs, Hanover, NH
- TSRC Meeting May 8, 2004, 9:00am
EBAs, Hanover, NH

TSRC FIELD DAY 2004 UPDATE

Dave KUIR and I have been working on establishing a group of teams to put together our field day effort this year. The concept is to divide the field day effort into manageable tasks and create a team to take on each task. With a group of teams with team leaders handling all aspects of the operation, Dave and I plan to act as troubleshooters and overall coordinators.

Dave will be calling each of you who responded to the Field Day survey. We appreciate your willingness to help make this a good FD experience.

Once we establish a team leader for each task, that leader will solicit help and begin setting up a team. We will have several dinner meetings between now and FD to help the teams work out logistics and other details.

We plan to have a site safety person designated to monitor the physical activities during setup and teardown. This person will be able to intervene in any activity that he/she feels is unsafe to work out a safe solution with the appropriate team.

The idea is to have each team work out the details of how their particular part of the FD effort gets accomplished. Our initial list of teams and general tasks is as follows:

SITE LAYOUT-

This will involve locating the operating sites, generator site and tower/antenna sites.

SETUP-

Tower and antenna transport to site, assy and setup.
Tower/trailer siting and setup.
Coax transport to site, hookup to antennas, confirm SWR.
Club comm van transported to site for HF op station.

POWER-

Generator acquisition, transport to site, setup and checkout.
Power cable transport to site, installation.
Provide fuel for generator (s).

STATION OPERATION-

Competition stations- rigs transported to site, setup, checkout.
Two- three HF stations.
Arrange for operator schedule for 24 hr FD period.

General operating stations-
rig transport to site, setup, checkout.
GOTA station.
HF station (s)
Arrange for operators for FD period.

FOOD-

Arrange for and transport 1-2 quick set-up open side tents or equiv.
Determine menu for FD period.
Purchase food, drinks, etc and provide drinking water supply.

SITE AVAILABILITY-

Confirmed by Doug N1KDV- port-a-pottys and water.

LOGGING SYSTEM-

Wireless logging setup using club licensed logging SW.
Only the HF stations use computer logging.

TEARDOWN-

Take down towers, tower trailer.
Disassemble antennas and roll coax.
Store all parts, arrange to transport back to WHQ
Disassemble all stations, arrange for club equip to go to WHQ.
Make sure individually owned equipment is returned to owner.
Transport all materials from FD site and make sure grounds are policed.

OTHER-

Gather all logging media and material and prepare in ARRL format for submission.

73, Bill WB1BRE

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The Incident Command System And You

Courtesy : Jerry Boyd, KW7J and WorldRadio

As more and more of the clients amateur radio emergency communicators serve adopt the Incident Command System (ICS), the more we in EMCOMM will need to adapt to that system. A true, as-intended use of ICS changes the manner in which we report in response to an incident. It changes whom we report to, and how. It can effect, positively or negatively, our long-standing relationships and agreements with individual clients or "served agencies". Because many of our clients have adopted ICS in name only, and have not yet utilized it as intended by the system, the impacts on amateur radio EMCOMM have, thus far, been minimal. That is in the process of changing.

It is important to have at least a basic understanding of what ICS is and how it differs from the previous approaches to managing emergency situations. A brief history. Prior to 1970, when the Incident Command System was first developed by the fire service in California, an emergency would result in the response of appropriate public safety (and other) resources. Using a train derailment, with injuries, at a roadway rail crossing as an example we can illustrate the pre ICS response. Such an event would result in a response by, at a minimum, the following: railroad personnel; law enforcement, fire, emergency medical, NTSB investigators, perhaps a haz mat team, and others. Each would operate under its own leadership, perform its own functions, and if communications were needed would be solely responsible for its own.

This pre-ICS approach was used for many, many years and, generally, worked. However, there were some inherent problems with command, control, and coordination. When amateur radio Emcomm was used in the pre-ICS environment it was almost always in response to requests from individual clients. If the Sheriff needed amateur support s/he would make the request, if the Red Cross needed it they would do the same. If the fire service needed it they would also summon amateur radio assistance.

In such a "multiple request" scenario the emergency coordinator (EC) of the amateur radio group had to, assuming a limited number of operators was available, decide which of the served agencies received help, and how much. That put the EC in a difficult position. The Sheriff wanted 5 operators, the Red Cross 3 and the fire department 6. Of the 14 operators requested, the EC might only be able to muster 10. It was left to the EC, who likely had no way of knowing for certain how many of the operators requested by each client were *really* needed, to decide which agency received operators and how many each would receive.

In the early 1970's the fire service in California, which regularly responds to major wildland fires requiring the assistance of multiple fire (and other) agencies, determined that the historic method of responding was problematic. Particularly in the Malibu fires which blackened thousands of acres, and destroyed hundreds of expensive homes, it was clear that having dozens of agencies respond each operating under its own leadership, without an overall incident commander was both inefficient and ineffective. Add to the problem of dozens of different fire departments all working the same fire without overall coordination, the fact that the highway patrol, sheriff's department,

medical responders, the Red Cross, and public works/public utility agencies were also involved in the response, the command/control and coordination issues became even more difficult to manage.

In response to a scenario such as that just described, events which occurred annually, the fire service through a program called *Firescope* developed what we now know as the Incident Command System. Initially ICS was used only by the fire service, and only in California, and it was used on a voluntary basis. Future events would change that.

In 1991 the largest urban-rural interface fire in the history of the United States occurred in the Oakland/Berkeley hills just east of San Francisco California. Over 3000 homes and other structures were lost to the fire and people, including public safety personnel, were killed in the conflagration. Following that fire, there was a major review of what happened, and why. While ICS was used *by the fire service responders*, there were literally hundreds of non fire service entities which responded to the incident. They

were not part of the ICS model. In addition, even the fire ICS was incomplete by today's standards. While command and control of all fire resources was consolidated, communications and equipment standardization was not.

The California legislature, following the Oakland/Berkeley fire, made ICS mandatory in California for **all** government agencies with emergency response responsibilities. It also expanded what ICS included. It was not long before other states, and the federal government, adopted ICS as well.

There are some excellent primers on the ICS system. The ARRL's emergency communications courses, available on-line and elsewhere, discuss ICS. The Department of Homeland Security through its emergency management and response section (formerly known as FEMA) offers an excellent (and free) ICS homestudy course. However, a brief summary of ICS essentials is as follows.

Under ICS, each incident or event results in one individual being the Incident Commander. (*note: in a very few types of incidents there is actually joint incident command where two people share the IC duty*) That person is responsible for the overall command of **all** resources that respond to the event. The person who serves as IC is determined by the nature of the event. As a very simple illustration, the IC for a major fire will probably be the ranking fire officer at the scene. A major highway wreck's IC will likely be the ranking state trooper, etc.

The IC has a staff to assist him/her in managing the event. Under the IC, in addition to his/her immediate staff, are four group leaders. The four major groups under ICS are: operations, planning, logistics, and finance. For purposes of this article, I will not discuss each of those. Instead, I encourage you to take one of the previously mentioned ICS courses to become familiar with the roles of each group.

Germane to amateur radio EMCOMM, it is important to note that communications (*all* communications, not just amateur radio) is coordinated within the logistics group. One of the many persons to staff the logistics group in a major incident will be a communications sections leader. That is the person who coordinates the overall communications needs related to the incident.

How does this structure effect amateur radio EMCOMM responders? Let me illustrate. Remember under the pre-ICS system the EC who was requested to provide operators to the sheriff, Red Cross, and fire department? That EC reacted to the individual requests of multiple agencies without any way of knowing which of the many requests had the greatest urgency or priority. Under ICS, any agency or organization needing supplemental communications will go to the communications section chief of the logistics group and make its request. The communications section chief will determine which requests are to be filled. More important, s/he will decide what communications resource will be used. The "comm chief" may decide that a given request can be satisfied by the distribution of cell phones or deployment of FRS radios. S/he may decide that amateur radio resources are needed. The "comm chief", rather than the individual requesting agency, will be the one to make the request for amateur radio Emcomm support. The comm chief will decide which agency with a communications need will be assigned amateur radio operators, how many, when, and for how long. It is to the comm chief that responding amateurs will report, generally at a staging area from which all resources will be assigned and deployed.

When amateur radio operators are requested via the ICS system typically the amateur radio contact person (EC) will be notified by the communications section staff. They may be given a mission number (that is for accounting purposes). The EC will be told the nature and duration of the assignment. The EC will need to make an immediate determination whether his/her group can fulfill the mission requested. As EC, do I have enough operators to staff the number of positions needed for as long as needed (consider the relief factor)? Does my group have the equipment and technological capability to fulfill the mission? Only after performing such an assessment and determining that his/her group can fulfill the request should the mission assignment be accepted. ***Remember: the integrity and future of amateur radio Emcomm demands that a mission assignment not be accepted unless the EC is certain the mission can be fulfilled in a competent and professional manner.***

Once the mission assignment is accepted, the appropriate amateur radio resources need to be mustered and instructed to respond to the designated staging area for briefing and deployment. The EC (or other designated *leader* of the responding EMCOMM group) should respond to the staging area. Only after all of his responders have arrived should that EMCOMM leader (and *only* him or her) report to the comm section chief. S/he will be briefed on the assignment, will in turn brief his/her radio operators, and deploy them to the assignments designated by the comm chief. The EC, or other designated leader, should not become involved in actual communications operations. His/her role is to serve as liaison between the operators and the comm section chief until the conclusion of the incident or until relieved.

There are, from the amateur radio perspective both advantages and disadvantages to use of ICS. One disadvantage is that in major incidents we will no longer work directly for our customary individual clients. We will work instead for the "system". The plus side is that we will answer to only one "boss", respond to only one request, and will no longer have to make our own decisions and prioritization's concerning which agencies we can support and which ones we cannot. The challenge will be to remember that non ICS events will still involve one on one relationships with individual served agencies whereas the "big one" will be handled in a much different manner.

This "full blown" use of ICS has not yet effected most amateur radio EMCOMM groups. However it will, and probably in the not-too-distant future. ICS is the method of choice for managing critical incidents and has been formally adopted in most states and by the federal government. Given amateur radios' expanded role and affiliation with the Citizens Corps, Department of Homeland Security, and others, our use in major incidents will almost certainly mean that we must be conversant and compliant with a *pure* ICS approach. Now is the time to become adept at working within the ICS structure. Our future as a viable provider of emergency communications support depends on it.

About the Author

Jerry Boyd, KW7J, is a retired Chief of Police and former rural fire chief. He has served in the ARRL Field Organization as an EC, DEC, SEC, and Section Manager. He is certified as an ICS Instructor and is the author of three amateur radio EMCOMM books published by Worldradio. His most recent book is "Managing the Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Function" (2003) He currently serves as a consultant, SAR volunteer and part-time 9-1-1 dispatcher in Baker City, Oregon. He may be contacted via kw7j@arrl.net

For Sale

I have two pieces of "ancient" 2mtr FM gear that I would like to "donate" to some deserving "grade-school" or "high-school" ham or ham-in-the-making... What I have is one "Standard Communications, 826MA -- 12 channel base station., 10 watt, 2mtr FM crystal controlled xcvr., vintage circa 1975 with base power supply and a "Standard Communications" 5-channel, crystal controlled "brick-sized", 2 Watt, HT, also vintge circa 1975. Both are in working condition, both are crystaled for 52 simplex, 94 simplex, 34/94, 16/76 and a couple other repeater pairings. The base unit comes with a mike, and the HT comes with a rubber ducky and a mike, as well as a telescoping whip. I would like to find a home for these with some young ham or ham-in-the-making-- especially someone who has shown a commitment to learning CW... First come first serve... If no response then the junk man hauls them away...

I also have a heavy-duty home-brew HF antenna tuner and antenna switch --cabpable of at least the legal limit and a Henry 2KD -- "Classic" linear for sale (with manual). The linear is capable of 500 Watts using a single 3-500Z. The linear "fried" the metering circuitry a while back and I rebuilt it. It works well and is equipped with a new 3-500Z (the old "soft" tube is also included). The only part of the circuit that is not currently working accurately is the power metering circuitry. It uses a "gimmick" capacitor that taps off of the RF, and I have not been able to get a good match with the original circuit. I am looking for about \$150 for the tuner and around \$300 for the amp...

Cheers and 73's.

Bert (WA1O) Norbert.E.Yankielun@valley.net

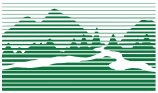
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ELECTRONIC ADDRESSES

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*NH ARRL Home Page: <http://www.nhradio.org/>
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Part 97 <http://www.arrl.org/field/regulations/news/part97/>

Don't forget to check the TSRC Home Page!
Make it your default start page!
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