

ACS/MST October 10, 2009 Comm Exercise – SET 2009

Player Guide for Mission # 09-T-481

Greetings – Thank you for agreeing to participate in the Seattle ACS/MST October 10, 2009 Comm Exercise (SET 2009). This package of information is intended to provide a basic overview of the purpose and objectives of the exercise and your role and what is expected. We want this exercise be a lot of fun and a good opportunity for all of to practice and learn. We want everyone to be creative and take some license in playing your role. Most of all be safe and remember your training.

Important Note: *Only registered ACS and MST members are eligible to participate in this exercise – we will take check-ins from others but they will not be deployed to a field location unless they have a valid ACS or MST ID card number. You must be a registered Washington State Emergency Worker.*

Statement of Purpose

The purpose of this exercise is to improve the readiness and effectiveness of Seattle ACS and Region 6 of the Western Washington Medical Services Team, by practicing all the processes that would be followed in a real-world incident.

Each year the ARRL encourages all ARES and RACES teams in the country to conduct a Simulated Emergency Test (SET), for the purpose of exercising the communication teams in a coordinated effort to communicate with served agencies and other neighboring jurisdictions. The teams are encouraged to utilize as many newly licensed operators as possible, both voice and digital modes, and to solicit publicity announcements.

After Action Review – Lessons Learned

All participants are invited to an exercise after-action review which will be held at the Seattle EOC at 6:30 PM on Thursday October 15, 2009. The Seattle EOC is located at 105 5th Ave S. (at the corner of 5th Ave S. and S. Washington St.)



Type of Emergency

Scenario – Major winter rain and wind storms have filled the Green River Dam, and have downed a number of trees – impact: Green River Valley flooding, landslides and wide area power outages. Evacuation of valley cities is underway – Seattle is providing aid with shelter facilities, City Light crews, and streets crews.

Scenario time frame - February 13, 2010 (Saturday), 0900-1130 PST.

Briefing:

- Puget Sound area has experienced heavy rains over the past two weeks
- The current event – a “Pineapple Express” began last evening – all areas are experiencing extreme rainfall and saturated soil. The warm rain is causing significant snow melt in the mountains, raising stream levels.
- The Howard Hanson Dam is nearly full, and weakened, so US Army Corps of Engineers are releasing water downstream at 10,000CFS+ and increasing
- Flows on the Green River downstream are at Stage III, moving to Stage IV flood
- The Valley cities have activated emergency evacuation (Kent, Auburn, Renton, Tukwila). Mutual aid requested from Seattle: Shelters, City Light, Streets.
- Seattle has opened a mass shelter at various locations. Evacuees are being transported to the shelters by school buses.
- The Seattle EOC was activated at 1800 hours on 02/12/2010
- Beginning at approximately 0600 02/13/2010 widespread power outages are occurring across western Washington due to wind and landslides.
- The Madison Valley is experiencing flooding requiring the evacuation of hundreds of households.
- The City has establishing command posts at various shelter sites, community locations and at City facilities.
- Seattle ACS has been activated to provide communications and other support
- The EOC Communications Unit is staffed and in Operation
- The Communications Unit Leader (COML) has met with EOC Incident Comm. Mgr – Trainee (INCM-T) and outlined the Communications Action Plan for the 12 hour operational period beginning at 0900, 02/13/2010.

Field Players

Start Exercise: ACS and MST members will listen at 0900 on the PSRG repeater (146.96 Mhz. tone 103.5 Hz.).

(see ICS 205 – frequency plan).

Listen on 146.96 MHz, ***you will receive instructions assigning you to a UHF repeater, based on your location for check-in and further instructions***, possibly including field deployment. Please do not check-in on 146.96; however, If you cannot establish contact as instructed, return to PSRG and report in.

During Exercise:

- Check in on your assigned frequency (see ICS 205) be prepared to provide your call sign, name, location and ID Card number (this is a 5 digit number with a two letter prefix example ACS ID: PS58960 MST ID: MS68923)
- Begin and end all radio transmissions with “THIS IS A DRILL.”
- Receive and follow instructions to become part of a field team – some participants may be assigned solo.
- Receive instructions to coordinate on a different repeater (see ICS 205)
- If directed, travel to initial field location and meet with other team member (s)
- Report arrival to EOC on your assigned frequency.
- If directed, travel as a team to other field locations and report arrival
- Respond to instructions from EOC to collect information or take other actions
- Confirm actions completed and send collected information to EOC using standard message format (See Appendix for Message Examples and Damage Reporting Guidelines). MST members will simulate hospital bed counts using standard forms and procedures.
- Use the ACS Message Form for organizing information to be sent to EOC – copy of the form and instructions are attached. MST members use the standard MST hospital capacity form.
- If you lose contact with your designated net control on your assigned frequency – move to the PSRG 146.96 MHz repeater and inform the EOC and request direction. Please note – we want to minimize radio traffic on this channel – keeping it open for contact by other EOCs and outside Teams.
- **Contact with Other EOCs and EmComm Teams** – The Seattle EOC will monitor the PSRG Repeater 146.96 MHz tone 103.5 Hz during the exercise – Other EOCs, agencies or EmComm Teams are welcome to call us on this frequency we may request that traffic move to another frequency to keep the channel clear for calling.

End of Exercise:

Secure your gear, and keep your logs. Take a few minutes to record notes to assist with the after-action meeting, which will be held on a weeknight at the EOC within about a week following the exercise.

Damage Assessment, Reports and Messages.

You maybe asked to conduct damage assessment in your area and report back what you find – since there will be no real damage we have created symbols to represent specific problems e.g. frame houses with reddish colored roof would be considered on

fire. Below is a table of symbols that will be used to represent specific damage – Net Control will give you specific instructions.

Event	Symbol to observe – that represent the event for the drill
Power Lines Down	Report the pole ID Tag numbers on power poles that have both a transformer and street light attached with in a two block area of your location.
Natural Gas Leak	Report the intersection cross streets where there are 2 or more utility access hatches (aka man-holes) with in a 3 block area
Fire	Report - all frame houses with reddish colored roof as on fire, painted blue as total losses
Broken Water Pipe	Report house addresses with a Recreational Vehicle in proximity within a 3 block area
Police Car	Report white vehicles
Fire Truck	Report vans
Looter	Report adult male pedestrians
Injured Persons	Report children
Escaped Zoo animals	Report dogs and cats
Utility Service Vehicles	Report Pickup trucks
Actual Emergency Vehicles	Report as what they are
Hazmat Crews	Report people doing yard work

Send messages to EOC from your field assignment – You may be assigned to one of the following sites and functions and be asked to provide the following type of information by way of radio message – see some examples of typical radio messages attached:

Functional Assignment	Message Activity
Command Post	Order suppliers
	Request additional resources e.g. equipment, teams, etc.
	Provide status report of conditions from the field
Shelter	provide status report e.g. # of occupants vs. capacity open beds
	order supplies, equipment and food
Department Operating Center	provide status reports
	request assistance from other

	jurisdictions
	order resources
MST Hospital Assignment	Bed counts
	Damage assessment

Safety

1. Participants will obey all laws, particularly traffic laws, at all times.
2. Participants will follow all standard safety procedures regarding use of radio equipment and any other equipment, including generators.
3. All vehicles used must be in good operating condition, with a spare tire and jack onboard.
4. All participants driving vehicles must have a valid driver's license and have sufficient liability insurance as required by WAC118 and the Washington State DOL.
5. Please ensure that the emergency contact information in your ACS or MST profile is current.
6. If you have an ongoing medical problem that could conceivably become an emergency, notify the exercise staff, either by radio when checking or off-line by calling 206 684 5027.
7. If you are dispatched to a location and encounter a delay in reaching the location within a reasonable time, notify the EOC of your expected time of arrival.
8. If you have a real-world emergency, bring it to the immediate attention of an Net Control by radio or by calling 206 684 5027, whichever is faster. Begin the message with "REAL-WORLD EMERGENCY, REAL-WORLD EMERGENCY." And do not let your participation in the exercise stop you from calling 911 or taking other prudent actions as you feel are necessary in addressing an emergency. Your safety and the safety of others comes first.

Bring any safety problem to the immediate attention of Net Control who will relay to the Exercise Controller. You are required to take the necessary actions to insure your safety and the safety of others.

Rules of Play

1. Relax, perform your tasks as well as you can, and have fun.
2. No exercise follows its planned course exactly. As in a real incident, all participants must be flexible and ready to adapt to changing conditions. Players at the EOC are subject to the same rules as players in the field or at hospitals.
3. All controllers will be located at the EOC. They will be using a controller radio channel and may contact you directly with special information. Generally, information will be given to players by the EOC.Net Control operators.
4. All evaluators will be located at the EOC. Evaluators record actions that are taken and make observations. They are not allowed to give any information to players.

5. Players are expected to make decisions and respond to exercise events as realistically as possible. Throughout the exercise, please do your best to maintain the mindset that a real incident is occurring.
6. Players are expected to use correct radio protocol on all transmissions. In addition, **begin all exercise radio transmissions with “THIS IS A DRILL.”**
7. All players must be ready to begin the exercise by 0900, Saturday, October 10, 2009. EOC players, Controllers and Evaluators should be at the EOC before 0830.
8. To prepare to participate, each player should be familiar with this Player Guide , particularly the scenario, assumptions, and artificialities, and safety procedures.
9. Players will be given information that will cause them to take some kind of action. Do not contact outside agencies. If you believe an outside agency should be contacted, give that information to the EOC, using standard message format.
10. Do not “fight the scenario.” Assume that any information received from the EOC is factual and accurate.
11. Start Exercise will be communicated by text message or pager (for MST members), as is standard for ACS/MST callouts.
12. End Exercise will occur when Exercise Control determines that all exercise objectives have been satisfied.
13. Should the exercise be stopped for any reason prior to End of Exercise, the Senior Controller will announce “EXERCISE STOP, EXERCISE STOP, EXERCISE STOP”, and will give the reason why and any other information as necessary. It may be restarted if appropriate.

The following materials are attached:

ICS 205 – exercise frequency plan

ACS Message Form with instructions (use for formatting messages)

Sample messages for illustration – please do not copy be creative