5 October 2013 (Saturday)   1330Z--2100Z (0830--1600 local)

ARES units throughout Illinois will participate in a statewide Simulated Emergency Test (SET) on 5 October 2013.

The Simulated Emergency Test (SET) is an annual opportunity for amateur radio operators and emergency communications groups to exercise and test their emergency communications skills and equipment while interacting with served agencies, NTS nets, and other ARES and EmComm organizations.

Exercise Scenario

Unknown assailants engage in malevolent cyber attacks on Internet-connected devices in Illinois which systematically shut down and/or damage these devices. Those devices directly affected will, in many cases, result in cascading failures in other systems.

1. The first wave of trouble shows up as a failure of the electrical grid, statewide. The hackers have gained control of all of the switches used at the major substations and power plants.

    a. All substations go off line.

    b. All power generating facilities, including nuclear power plants, are shut down, either as a result of the substation failures or because they were directed to shut down by the hackers.

2. Within a few minutes, a different group of hackers gain control of the SCADA (Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition) systems controlling the flow of natural gas thru pipelines and their associated pumping stations.

    a. All natural gas pumping stations in Illinois and those feeding Illinois from border states are shut down as valves close. Some explosions and fires result. There are almost 12,000 miles of these pipelines in Illinois.

    b. All facilities running electrical generation systems which rely upon natural gas are rendered useless.

3. The third phase of the attack has two parts.

    (1) First, the loss of AC power and natural gas has caused an immediate and network-crushing overload of the landline and cellular communications systems (which are operating on battery power).

    (2) Second, the hackers target the relay points and switching stations that handle telecommunications, bringing all IP-connected systems down.

    a. All media outlets--TV, CATV, satellite providers, AM and FM radio--are off the air as a result of the loss of IP-remote connections between studios and transmitters and/or the loss of network capabilities.

    b. The Emergency Action System (EAS) is inoperable as no networks are available with which to communicate to the transmitters.

    c. In short, all of the technology upon which we rely, is unavailable.

    d. All of the above takes place in the 60 minutes PRECEDING the opening of the drill. In other words, the damage has been done, the infrastructure is down, and, in some cases, irreparably so.

How ARES Groups Can Participate in the Statewide Part of the SET

THE CHALLENGE IS FOR EACH PARTICIPATING ARES GROUP TO BE ABLE TO FORMAT AND SEND A MESSAGE ADDRESSED TO THE STATE RACES/AUXCOMM STATION.

NC9IL will be operating on SSB and Winmor. Pactor is available, as well.

We will NOT be responding to requests for PEER to PEER (PTP) Winmor requests.

Instead, we ask that you send your messages to a Winlink 2000 RMS using RADIO, NOT TELNET, anywhere in the U.S. addressed to NC9IL@winlink.org. It will get to us, and, will do so in a very timely manner.

If there is no digital capability in your group, then the message(s) may be sent using the National Traffic System (Illinois Sideband Net), or, by checking into the C&C net where arrangements will be made to receive your message traffic.

Message format may be ARRL Radiogram or ICS 213, if sending directly by digital means. If messages are sent via the NTS, then, ARRL Radiogram format is to be used.

- Note: National Traffic System Methods and Practices Guidelines—Appendix B of the ARRL Public Service Communications Manual, is a thorough tutorial and reference on all aspects of how to pass formal message traffic, including the ARRL radiogram format.

Message content should include the jurisdiction of the originating ARES group, the number of members that are in the group (enrolled, not just those participating), and the zipcodes of the residences of the members.

You do not have to identify the member by callsign with the zipcode, only a list of unique zipcodes. (We will use the zipcode info to plot the locations of capable and willing communications volunteers on a statewide map, to be used for planning purposes).

The Illinois ARES HF Net will be operating on 3.905 MHz, primary, 7.230 MHz, alternate. This will the the command and control (C&C) net.

Additional frequencies may be utilized depending upon the traffic load on the primary. These will be announced as needed on the C&C net.

Upcoming Events

Sun	Sep 29	0700	Public Service: Bike the Ridge--Evanston
Sat	Oct 05	0830--1600	Illinois Statewide Simulated Emergency Test (SET)
Sun	Oct 13	0500	Public Service: Chicago Marathon
Wed	Oct 23	2100	Cook County ARES Net SARA Repeater, 146.88 MHz