

From: Mike Moses <ki7wh@yahoo.com>

Subject: Exercise Prep and Training for August 17, 2005--7 PM VA Nursing Home

Our monthly training will deal with preparation and coordination for next month's county exercise as well as discuss pointers and expectations on interaction with public officials and agencies.

EXERCISE

Charlotte County will conduct a disaster exercise on September 20. RACES has asked for and was granted permission to play in the exercise and contingencies involving our role will be written in. The scenario probably involves two explosions—one causing structural damage and the other a chemical event.

Between now and exercise delivery, we need to plan and coordinate our efforts. We need to know who will operate the stations and we need to practice for the operation. It is important for those who wish to volunteer and those who are integral to planning and operations of RACES to attend the meeting (Wednesday 17 August at the VA Douglas Jacobson Nursing home—7 PM). Key people need to be identified to attend some upcoming county meetings and for planning and logistics.

For now, here is what will be going on: The staging area will be the sports complex on Highway 776. Four hospitals will be receiving and treating casualties. The hospitals are Fawcett, Peace River, Charlotte Regional and Englewood. Fawcett and Englewood have decontamination equipment and are key in that role. At this stage, planning involves deploying two RACES operators at each hospital, one of which can serve as a runner. There will be a mobile net control deployed at the sports complex also involving two operators. The EOC will not be activated but we will have operators in our RACES room for relay and backup.

Englewood Hospital is in Sarasota County although it is listed as a tactical site for our RACES. There is a possibility that this will need to be coordinated with the Red Cross in Sarasota County (who are now in charge of emergency communications). This will be discussed as part of our planning meeting.

Our next tactical drill (1st Wednesday in September) will be a dry run for the upcoming exercise; that is, 4 hospitals and a mobile command. We will need to know ahead of time who will be participating. Hopefully, our participants can deploy with backup radios and power supplies, just in case. We should also identify some pool operators that can and will deploy as backup. If we cannot fully deploy our own in-county operators, we will invite out-of-county volunteers to fill in.

Red Cross (possibly Salvation Army) and CERT will be invited by the county to support the exercise. If any of our operators are members of these organizations, I would encourage them to volunteer and have their radios with them (or use the ones supplied if available). I would like to have a separate logistics net out of the EOC for operators not directly participating.

Our play may be short, probably involving a breakdown in normal communications that would require the four hospitals to use our operators to coordinate with each other. But, be prepared for other uses.

RACES NETS

Effective immediately, one of our monthly operational nets will be dedicated to SKYWARN. Virginia Kandansky, KG4NKN, our SKYWARN Coordinator will assume net control at 8 PM every 4th Wednesday and poll member. There may be drills involving SKYWARN protocols, messages, procedures and the use of the Big Stick repeater.

MIKE MOSES--KI7WH
RACES Officer/Emergency Communications Coordinator(ARES)

Charlotte County