

# SLOECC ARES®/RACES Training Plan

Training Module: Section 5.4.4.  
Communicate information effectively to Net  
participants

## 5.4.4. Communicate information effectively to Net participants

- Be net control for Tuesday Local SLOECC ARES/RECES net
- Be net control for Tuesday SLOECC county net
  - Use correct Radio protocols
  - Write legibly and speak clearly
  - Use standard terminology, designators, acronyms, and symbols
  - Acknowledge requests, and provide feedback
- Correctly recite the standard ITU Phonetic Alphabet

# Net Formats

- **Open** - Informal, may or may not be a Net Control Station, and non net related traffic may be passed.
- **Directed** - Formal, set of rules, Net Control Station who runs and controls net and frequency. Only net related traffic.

# Net Types\*

- Ragchew/Club Sponsored Net
  - Open net, usually a formal set of instructions called "preamble" and follows a specific topic for the evening
  - Anyone may check in and discuss topic
  - Formal traffic may be passed
- Skywarn/Weather Net
  - Stand by Net - Open net, information being gathered, and is not called a Skywarn Net at this time.
  - Formal Net - Directed net, only one station reporting to NWS and can be called a Skywarn Net if a warning or watch has been issued by NWS.
- ARES (Amateur Radio Emergency Service)
  - Only ARRL appointed Emergency Coordinator may call this net
  - Work with served agencies (i.e. Red Cross, Salvation Army)
  - NCS is usually located at served agency Command Post
- ARPSC (Amateur Radio Public Service Corps) Net
  - Are held on ARRL Section, District and Local levels. They are information nets for the passing down of information from ARRL Headquarters.
- Public Service Events (i.e. parades, shows, fairs, walkathons)

# RACES NET\* (Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Services)

- Affiliated with FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Administration) and called by County Emergency Management
- Must be RACES certified (i.e. County Badged) to participate in the net
- No non-RACES communications on the net
- It is always a directed net
- Net Control Station is usually located in EOC (Emergency Operations Center)

## OTHER TYPES OF RACES NETS\*

- **Stand-by:** May be an open or directed net. An excellent training tool for teaching new Net Control Operators (NCOs) how a net is actually conducted.
- Incident Command System (ICS) Standby Net Called a **Resource Net** and is always a directed net. Known as the "Supply Sergeant" due to directing assets, supplies, etc. for served agencies. It requires the NCO to have a high level of organizational skills, a cool head and several assistants to help handle the large volume of traffic. It relieves stress and traffic from Tactical and Command Net Control Operators.
- **Command Nets** are established during large disasters and emergencies. They are used by "Executive Board" of Emergency Officials and are not run by Amateurs, but Amateur Nets may be required to report to the Command Net.

# Duties of Net Control in Emergency\*

- **Listen before you transmit.** Never violate this principle.
- Report at once to your Emergency Coordinator so that the EC will have up-to-minute data on the facilities available. Work with the local civic and relief agencies as the EC suggests.
- **Operate on the air in accordance with regulations.**
- SOS and "Mayday" are the International distress calls for emergency only. They are for use only by stations seeking emergency assistance.
- Respect the fact that the success of the amateur effort in emergency depends largely on circuit discipline. **The established Net Control Station should be the supreme authority for traffic routing.**
- Cooperate with those we serve. Be ready to help, but stay off the air unless there is a specific job to be done.

# Things to know as Net Control\*

- **Being in charge.** Net Control Operators (NCO) are perceived as a leader and must build trust with field operators and accept the responsibility placed on them.
- Choosing the **net format.** This must be decided by the NCO and can be changed from open to directed as NCO sees the need.
- Determining **Net size.** Determined by the nature of the incident and needs of served agencies. Always accept more than anticipated and keep them on stand-by, but keep them informed, thank them and release them when its known that they are not needed.
- Using **Tactical Call Signs.** Try to keep to a minimum. Use call sign suffixes since it is very familiar to all involved.
- Setting **Net Discipline.** The NCO sets the level of discipline. Keep transmissions short and only necessary information and when there is an opportunity, relax and have some fun Try a roll-call check-in to remind yourself, to id every ten minutes.
- Handling **Requests to "Go Direct".** These can save time and be valuable, but also can interfere with the net. Cover what you can in your net instructions. If you see the request as viable, respond with "Make your call".
- **Net Instructions** - Be specific. State what information you want passed. Sets the mood and direction of the net so be prepared to change them as conditions or situations change. Give changes in the form of updates, but repeat full instructions again

# Things to know as Net Control\*

- **Net Announcements.** Use net announcements regularly to keep field operators aware of any changes in events or operational changes. Use them to keep them awake, aware and on frequency.
- **Irate/Upset Participant.** This one is tough.
  - Slow up. **Don't** respond instantly. **Take** a deep breath. **Do** a quick personality review of your assailant.  
DO THE NEXT THREE STEPS ALL IN ONE STATEMENT.
    - Acknowledge the problem.
    - Empathize with them!
    - Ask them for a quick and simple suggestion for a solution.
  - If their suggestion or solution is something reasonable, tell them that you will try to put it into play. If it is not, make a counter-suggestion that will satisfy the real problem that they have revealed..
  - If the problem cannot be resolved quickly and reasonably, quietly relieve him from his post. The rest of the net will respect what you did and morale will remain intact.
- **What Call Gets Your Attention First?** Routine calls should be responded to in the order received. If you hear "Priority" or "Emergency", hold all other calls and respond to the "Emergency" call first and "Priority" second.

# Things to know as Net Control\*

- What is a **Liaison Station** and How Do You Use Them? Liaison stations are established when you may have a large net or wide spread area that you are dealing with. You may assign a Liaison station to handle all traffic for a certain agency or area that is working on a separate frequency from the main net. They also act as a "garbage filter" answering all of the routine questions that are coming in. The Liaison station will relay important information to the main Net Control Station.
- What Is a **Sub-Net** and When Is One Needed? A Sub-Net deals with a particular function of the Net. One of the best ones to set-up is a "**Resources Net**". This is where all operators will check in, check out, give transportation needs, get duty assignments, give equipment lists. If the main NCS needs people or equipment, they go to the Sub-Net with their needs
- **The ICS lights go on!** The ICS and the Sub-Net system are identical except in one sense; ICS has an automatic overload prevention. The defined Chain of Command and authority is designed to split large tasks into smaller ones. Police and Fire Departments use ICS heavily and the Red Cross has it's own version of ICS. When you are informed that you are reporting to someone else now, accept it, they have just split the responsibility. Inform your own Net Control Station (if you have one) and keep on doing what you have been doing.
- **How Long Should You Stay On Duty As NCO?** Take a break whenever you can. If you think you need a break, you do! Just turn it over to one of your assistants for a while. A two hour stretch without a break is maximum. A four hour shift would be considered the very maximum and if you are at it for six hours, you should be starting to self-destruct.
- **\* Taken from: NET CONTROL TRAINING MANUAL, INSTRUCTOR'S OUTLINE & ATTACHMENTS By R. Bruce Winchell, N8UT and John Freeman, KB8ZDX, Copyright 1997**

# Common Radio Pro-Words and Phrases

- ACKNOWLEDGE - Let me know you have received and understood this message
- AFFIRMATIVE - Yes, or permission granted, or I agree
- ALL STATIONS - This message is for all stations
- BREAK - I hereby indicate the separation between portions of the message CONFIRM - My version is ... is that correct?
- \*\*CLEAR - frequency not in use, I am finished and do not expect a reply.
- CORRECTION or WRONG - An error has been made in this transmission (message indicated). The correct version is...
- DISREGARD - Consider this transmission as not sent
- FIGURES - The following characters are non-numeric characters (letters)
- GO AHEAD - Proceed with your message
- GROUP - The following characters are a mix of numbers and letters
- HOW DO YOU READ? - How do you hear me?
- I SAY AGAIN - USE "I SAY AGAIN", NOT REPEAT
- I SPELL - I am going to spell a word/name
- LETTERS - The following characters are non-numeric characters (letters)
- MAYDAY - spoken word, repeated three times, for distress communications (LIFE IS IN IMMEDIATE DANGER!)
- MAYDAY RELAY - The relaying of a distress call
- MIXED GROUP - The following characters are a mix of numbers and letters
- MONITOR - Listen on channel/frequency....
- NEGATIVE - No or Permission not granted or I do not agree
- OUT - I am finished and do not expect a reply
- OUT TO YOU - I am finished talking to you and wish to talk to another station
- OVER - I am finished and require an answer
- PAN PAN - The spoken word, repeated three times, for an urgency communication (WE HAVE A POSSIBLE EMERGENCY!)
- RADIO CHECK - I am testing my radio
- READ BACK - Read back the entire message as received
- ROGER - I have received your last transmission
- SAY AGAIN - Send your last transmission. DO NOT USE "REPEAT" !!!
- SAY AGAIN ALL AFTER/BEFORE - Re-send part of message after or before
- SECURITY - Spoken word, repeated three times, for safety communications (WARNING OF A POSSIBLE DANGER! IE: WIND DIRECTION CHANGE)
- RADIO SILENCE - The spoken words to impose radio silence to keep frequency clear for emergency traffic or emergency communications
- SIGNAL CHECK - How do you read me
- STAND BY - I must pause for a few seconds (maximum of 15 sec.)
- THAT IS CORRECT - Self explanatory.
- VERIFY - Check coding, check text with originator and re-send
- WAIT OUT - I can not receive your message at this time the net may continue (more than 15 sec. delay)
- WILCO - Instructions received, understood and will be complied with
- WORDS TWICE - Communications are difficult, I am sending or send each word twice



SLOECC Check-Ins Log								
Date:								
South County ECC 2,4,15								
Individual Call Signs								
Central County ECC 1,8,9,10,13								
Cal Poly ECC 16								
Individual Call Signs								
North County ECC 3, 6								
Individual Call Signs								
North Coast ECC 12								
Individual Call Signs								
Estero ECC 5 Morro Bay								
Estero ECC 11 South Bay Fire								
Individual Call Signs								
Late Member Call Signs								
Visitors Call Signs								





# International Telecommunication Union Phonetic Alphabet

- **A**--Alfa
- **B**--Bravo
- **C**--Charlie
- **D**--Delta
- **E**--Echo
- **F**--Foxtrot
- **G**--Golf
- **H**--Hotel
- **I**--India
- **J**--Juliett
- **K**--Kilo
- **L**--Lima
- **M**--Mike
- **N**--November
- **O**--Oscar
- **P**--Papa
- **Q**--Quebec
- **R**--Romeo
- **S**--Sierra
- **T**--Tango
- **U**--Uniform
- **V**--Victor
- **W**--Whiskey
- **X**--X-ray
- **Y**--Yankee
- **Z**--Zulu