

Final Preparations

If you are serving with an agency, touch base with them a day or two prior to the event to remind them of the upcoming Simulated Emergency Test.

Take snacks and drinks with you for the four-hour period. If you are going on the “Search and Rescue”, take snacks and dress warm, carry wet weather gear just in case, dress in layers. Remember that you are working above a mile high, the climate is a different world there than at the lower elevations.

Make copies of all needed forms before the last minute. Review the “2006 EC SET Report” prior to the event so that you capture all the information that your EC will need from your location to complete the form.

After the SET, get your report into you EC as soon as possible. Even though you may not be an EC, use the EC report form to send the information to your EC. The EC will combine the information from the different sites or net controls to make their final report to the league. All ECs please copy your DEC, SEC and SM. Your can find their email address at <http://aresva.org/aresva.html>. The SM’s email address is w4ghs@arri.net.

In this SET there will be a simulation of 35,000 vehicles with 70,000 passengers stranded on a 50-mile stretch of I-77 in Virginia. The exits will be blocked so these people will need to walk, be carried or be lower in “Stokes Baskets” over steep embankments through 28 to 32 inches of snow to reach shelters. Some of these will be suffering from exposure and frostbite; there will be infants with no formula, people with heart conditions and some with carbon monoxide poisoning. Utilities will be out over most of the impacted area. Can you image all those people in their cars trying to make calls on their cell phones at the same time to let everyone on their calling list know where they are located? It will be a long time before cell phones will be operating due to system overload. It is vital that we keep long-range frequencies open for critical needs. We don’t want our government observes listening to radio operators trying to pass critical traffic on the same frequency as someone trying to copy a book of 10 H & W messages while the emergency message is being held. In any major disasters you will never hear an attempt to do both on a single frequency. This is a major disaster. The last time we had an actual event similar to this, it took over 40 hours to get people off the Interstate to shelters in Carroll County. In Bland County it took a week to get everyone to shelters. We also will have a life and death situation going on with a rescue on Whitetop Mountain. There will be over 3 foot of snow; the temperature will be dropping rapidly and winds are predicted to exceed 50 MPH on the afternoon of the SET. In this kind of scenario it is imperative to use our long-range capabilities in the most productive ways. That means H & W should be out-going only and utilizing a designated frequency. Tactical frequencies should be allowed to always be open for priority and emergency traffic. There is never routine traffic passed, all messages

will have time value. There will be a heavy volume of H & W traffic and there will be a high volume of tactical and resource messages passed in a 3-hour period.

I will be sending email files with tactical messages (outgoing) to one person in each shelter or agency if I have your email address. If I have no email address for your location, I will send multi-files to an area leader.

These folders will be sent via email by late Wednesday evening.