



# Emergency Radio Communications Drill

## October 23, 2021

City of Eugene neighborhood groups will participate in the city-wide emergency radio communications drill on October 23, 2021. This drill is intended to allow participants to practice emergency radio communications in an exercise setting and to evaluate expectations on the use of handheld FRS/GMRS two-way radios, VHF/UHF HAM radio systems and ICS forms in a disaster.

### **Executive Summary**

Radio communications can become an important alternate method of communication if traditional telephone and cell phone lines are disrupted. The City of Eugene Office of Emergency Management will hold an emergency radio communications drill on October 23, 2021 in Eugene, Oregon. The scenario involves a city-wide emergency that included the loss of regular emergency communications through telephone or cell phone systems. This exercise will allow the City of Eugene Emergency Management to determine how effective alternative communications to the City's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) through low-powered portable radios and through volunteer HAM radio operators could be implemented.

## **Exercise Overview**

**Exercise Name:** 2021 City of Eugene Emergency Radio Communications Drill Duration: 2 hours

**Exercise Date:** October 23, 2021

**Sponsor:** City of Eugene Emergency Management

**Type of Exercise:** Drill

**Funding Source:** N/A

**Program:** Community Emergency Response Training

**Focus:** Response

**Classification:** Unclassified

**Scenario:** Earthquake

**Location:** Eugene, OR

### **Participating Organizations:**

City of Eugene neighborhood residents

City of Eugene Emergency Management

### **Number of Participants:**

Neighborhood association representatives and Map Your Neighborhood Field Teams

City of Eugene Emergency Management staff

City of Eugene District volunteer ham radio operators

### **Exercise Overview:**

The City of Eugene Emergency Radio Communications Drill is a 2-hour city-wide drill designed for neighborhood community emergency communication training.

There are three main goals of this exercise:

- To evaluate radio transmission and reception to and from the City's District HAMs, District Incident Command Posts (Net Control) and the City Emergency Operations Center.
- To familiarize participants with roles necessary in emergency communications following a disaster.

- To provide an opportunity for participants to practice localized communications and message handling techniques over the emergency radio network.

All radio messages will first be written on the general message form ICS-213 and then logged in on the message log form ICS-309. The forms are provided at the end of this document.

### **Message Ranking**

Subject matter and time factors must be weighed when assigning rank or precedence to a message. Assigning rank to messages denotes the urgency of the messages and tells the operators the order in which messages are to be handled.

- **Emergency**  
Messages of extreme urgency: these messages are to be handled as fast as possible ahead of all other messages. Lower ranked messages are interrupted until the emergency message is complete. Example: widespread civil disturbance, mass casualties and injuries, potential for mass casualties or injuries, many trapped victims
- **Priority**  
Messages requiring fast action for conducting operations in progress. Example: supply requests for operations in progress, damage assessments to public safety infrastructure without victims
- **Routine**  
Messages in which information or action must be taken in 48 hours or more. Example: long term supply request, damage assessments not involving essential service or public safety infrastructure

**All radio transmissions will begin and end with “this is an exercise”**

### **Exercise Event Synopsis**

#### **Scenario**

A large-scale earthquake or other city-wide emergency that eliminates regular emergency communications by telephone impacts the city. The scenario necessitates alternative emergency communications through low-powered hand-held radios, through local volunteer neighborhood field teams and HAM radio operators at Neighborhood Net Control. On October 23 at 10am, the City’s Emergency Operations Center broadcasts on a pre-designated EOC frequency **147.46 MHZ Simplex** to District Net Control to obtain situation and status reports from neighborhoods throughout the city.

#### **Drill Timeline**

1000hrs      The City of Eugene EOC Net Control starts roll call with the District Net Control HAMs. “This is an exercise”.

1005hrs The EOC repeats roll call with city District Net Control HAMs for any late check-ins.

1010hrs The EOC instructs the District Net Control HAMs to start the neighborhood survey for damage assessment.

1011hrs District Net Control HAMs start roll call with District neighborhood Net Control HAMs. "This is an exercise".

1016hrs District Net Control HAMs repeat roll call with District neighborhood Net Control HAMs for any late check-ins.

1021hrs District Net Control HAMs instruct District neighborhood Net Control HAMs to start a damage assessment of their respective neighborhood HAMs and field teams.

1022hrs District neighborhood HAMs start roll call with their respective neighborhood field teams. "This is an exercise".

1027hrs District neighborhood HAMs repeat roll call with their respective neighborhood field teams for any late check-ins.

1032hrs District neighborhood HAMs instruct their respective neighborhood field teams to survey their neighborhood and make damage assessment using the 'damage assessment form and pass the damage assessment to the District neighborhood HAM using the ICS-213 general message form.

1115hrs District neighborhood field teams pass damage assessment on to their respective District neighborhood HAMs using the ICS-213 general message form.

1125hrs District neighborhood HAMs pass damage assessment messages on to the District Neighborhood Net Control HAM using the ICS-213 general message form.

1135hrs District Neighborhood Net Control HAMs pass damage assessment messages on to the District Net Control HAMs using the ICS-213 general message form.

1145hrs District NET CONTROL HAMs pass damage assessment messages on to the EOC using the ICS-213 general message form.

1200hrs EOC gives the number count of received messages from each District Net Control HAMs and instructs District Net Control HAMs to secure their respective District Neighborhood Net Control HAMs, neighborhood HAMs and neighborhood field teams from the 2021 City of Eugene Emergency Radio Communications Drill.

EOR