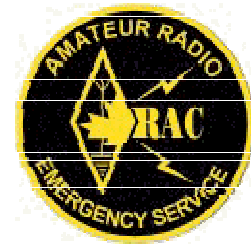




Chilliwack Amateur Radio Club
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22 November 2009

Exercise Twin Rinks Post Exercise Report

Reference: Exercise Twin Rinks dated November 21 2009

General

All the aims of this exercise were met and it demonstrated that the deployment of all our emergency Radio systems worked well and that a comprehensive radio net was set up throughout the City of Chilliwack and FVRD. There were a few Ham operators who were not club members that participated, but not as many as would have been wished despite advertising the exercise in our local paper.

Timings

A two hour period for the initial briefing and deployment was planned but that proved to be more than was actually needed. A one hour period would have been adequate.

Club Equipment

All the suitcase and portable radios worked well and no difficulties were experienced. Club equipment is regularly checked and serviced with particular attention to battery conditions. This regular check is essential and pays dividends for when the equipment is suddenly required.

The new radio room is an excellent facility. Once again it is essential to keep the area cleared of any non essential personnel during operations. The need for headsets and foot switch mikes was again proven to be essential particularly when we move to computer logging. This equipment has been approved for purchase and is on order.

The new HF radio used a dipole antenna for this exercise and no problems were found in receiving signals from PEP in Surrey. It was however reported that although the signal was good the audio on most transmission was not there. This may be a radio or operator problem. The final installation of a beam antenna system and further operator training on this radio should solve this problem.

This exercise also gave club members an opportunity to test their own mobile radio equipment and with success. In particular the Rosedale Fire Hall VE7KJF had a good signal at the PREOC on the club simplex frequency of 147.100. The portable radio system at the Evergreen Hall also had a good signal.

Emergency Portable Radio Room

It was decided not to erect our portable tower and radio room in the wet weather for subsequent storage problems. Instead VE7GL/HJJs radio shack was used and operated for the exercise. This station with its broad variety of antenna systems had no problem in receiving and sending on all the frequencies used in this exercise.

Frequencies

All our allocated frequencies worked well in our area of responsibility. Contact with PREOC on 145.110 (VE7RSH) as suggested works very well and should be added to our frequency plans. We used our phone patch frequency that worked well but in doing so realized that the phone patch system was not working and is now under repair.

Personnel Equipment

When setting up communications in public places clearly identifiable vests are required to indicate Emergency Communications personnel. Although everywhere we deployed was fully authorized by the relevant authorities there are always other people around who wonder what is taking place. Small placards should be set up to indicate that it is part of the Chilliwack ARC Emergency Communications Network. Name tags will also be useful. The provision of vests and name tags will be investigated.

A small table and chairs should be made available for locations where there are not already these facilities. Heritage Park is an example and this will be investigated.

Radio Room Operations

All transmission and receiving radio calls were logged throughout the exercise. New and younger operators were used in some areas to provide them with experience and build up confidence. Tactical Call signs were used with instructions that the first call that they make would include their AR call sign "VE7--- at the mike" This works well and meets regulation requirements.

The Chilliwack EOC, "Chilliwack Operations" is the Net Control and must always control the frequency. This is again a learning experience for radio operators assigned to this important task. Overall radio discipline was good.

Participation

This exercise with its specific date and times was published at least a month before it took place and weekly reminders made. Full use of the club's joint e-mail system was also made. This provided an opportunity for club members to plan their personal activities to make themselves available on that date. There are always some members who have other work or family responsibilities that mean that they are unable to participate. There are others who agree but last minute problems cause them to cancel. However despite all of this, the club pulled together and all planned radio stations and EOCs were fully manned for this exercise. It is most appreciated by those who were involved in all the detailed arrangements and planning needed to run these exercises

Summary

Step one in our winter training plans has been completed and it went well and lessons were learned.

Future Plans

The City plans some large scale EOC and ESS training during which the club will be asked to participate. In preparation members will be encouraged to practice log keeping. The introduction of headsets and foot mikes controls will assist a great deal in these basic operations. Hopefully we can move on to computer logging in the future.

Jack Jackaman
Chilliwack ARC
Emergency Coordinator