

RACES Newsletter

Serving Montgomery County Kansas

Published Quarterly

4th Quarter - October 2008

Inside This Issue

- 2 Family Guide Booklet
- 2 Weather on the Web
- 2 S.E.K. Skywarn Notes
- 2 RACES Members
- 3 RACES – Self Dispatch
- 4 10 Codes & Plain English
- 4 Websites of Interest
- 4 Local Hamfest's
- 5 Club Website's
- 5 Basic Go-Kit
- 6 Local Nets

TRAINING – Why ?

Training is a KEY element in the development and maintenance of a professional organization. We take the job of the emergency communicator very seriously and strive to succeed with the best professionalism possible. To accomplish these goals, RACES/C.A.R.C. provides and recommends multiple training opportunities.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) provides much of the training for FREE from the link listed below.

We also recommended the ARECC courses Level I, II and Level III offered by the [ARRL](#). In addition to the training mentioned in this article, public service events are invaluable. These events provide an opportunity to hone the skills learned during training activities.

Remember, we want to provide the BEST possible communications services in the event of an ACTUAL activation by one of our served agencies.

FEMA Independent Study Program:
<http://training.fema.gov/IS/crslst.asp>

ARRL Continuing Education Program
<http://www.arrl.org/cep/>



From the Emergency Manager

The Montgomery County Emergency Management Office is in the process of fitting an ambulance, donated by Coffeyville Regional Medical Center, Coffeyville, KS, with equipment necessary to operate as a Mobile Emergency Operation Center (EOC). This process seems to be a slow, but sure process. The first priority being to mechanically insure the vehicle is operational and reliable. Mobile radios, to include VHF, UHF, and low band, have been purchased and are ready for installation.

Presently the vehicle has been mechanically worked over and the radio equipment is ready to be installed. Members of Montgomery County Rural Fire and Montgomery County RACES personnel have donated time and effort to work on the vehicle to get it ready for operational use.

WESTAR Energy has donated a telescoping pole to be used as a tower for the radio antennas.

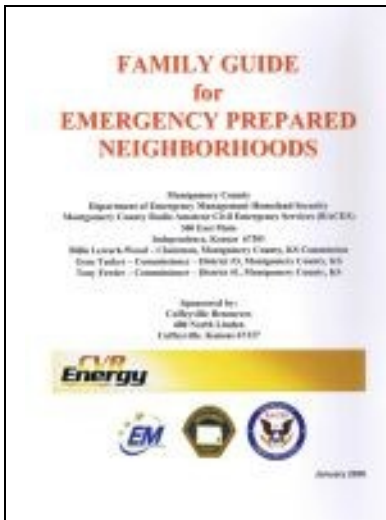
A Tactical Communications Package (TAC-PAC) has been purchased for use in the Mobile EOC which will provide copy machine, fax machine, scanner, low/high speed satellite phone, GPS, lap-top (w/internet access card) access for mobile operations.

This vehicle will be housed in Montgomery County in a location other than the County Court House, to be accessed in the case of an emergency requiring mobile operation. *Jim – KC0WAA*

Family Guide for Emergency Prepared Neighborhoods

This new guide was prepared by the Montgomery County Department of Emergency Management and Montgomery County Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Services (RACES).

These are available free from the Montgomery County Department of Emergency Management, 300 E. Main, Independence, Kansas 67301 or call 620-330-1260. Montgomery County E.M. and RACES would like to thank Coffeyville Resources for sponsoring this guide. Ken – NUOB



S.E.K. Skywarn Notes

The SKYWARN meeting at the State Convention was attended by some 28 hams, with 2 new folks signing up to become members. We would like to thank Randy NOLC, for running the meeting as Sherry; KB0SQQ was busy at work that day.

Of the many things which came out of this meeting was the fact that we have grown from a team of 20, to a team of well over 125 in our 26 county areas of operations! We have increased our operational capabilities to include some 10 repeaters. We now have an ECHOLINK node in the NWS/Wichita and plans afoot for an HF link as well. To say we have come a long way is an understatement...and there is much more to do in the future.

For now, let's bask in the glow of the good work our teams have done in the past year and look forward to what we can do in the future. If you have ideas...share them with any of the Coordinators and we will try to get them implemented. That is how we have grown and how we will continue to grow and better serve our communities.

Jim Tuggle KC0NYK
Asst Coordinator Skywarn NWS/ICT
SKYWARN Net Control SEK
Elk Falls, Ks

Weather information on the Web

Here are a few of the common website for weather:

NOAA (Wichita Weather):
<http://forecast.weather.gov/MapClick.php?zoneid=KSZ099>

Weather underground:
<http://www.wunderground.com>

Accu Weather:
<http://www.accuweather.com/>

Weather Channel:
<http://www.weather.com/>



Be safe, have a weather radio!

Current RACES Members:

Ken Collins	NUOB
Charles Vest	W5COV
Robert Martin	N0RDM
David Hanna	N0TAP
Eldon Hunter	KB0RVO
John Vest	KC0WAB
Ed Howard	KB5FUP
Teddy Banks	KC0WNY
Joe Palmer	KD0BQY
Charlie Vest	KC0WYK
James Tuggle	KC0NYK
Ron Barrett	K0RJB
Larry Vest	KC0WYZ
Wilbur Schwatken	KC0TLC
Louis Canaday	K0LC

Should RACES Self-Dispatch ?

RACES leaders try to distinguish their group, from those individuals who show up uninvited at an incident. One way they do this is by prohibiting RACES members from going to the site of an incident unless it is an approved RACES activation by the Local Emergency Manager. This simple policy is not always well accepted by some RACES members. **Self-dispatch is not only a practice among Amateur Radio operators, but also by professional responders who have been known to succumb to the perceived need and simply show up.**

In the January 1987 crash of the Amtrak Colonial train near Baltimore MD. There were so many fire, EMS and law enforcement who responded directly to the scene in their personal cars, that subsequent apparatus and equipment could not get down the road and to the scene itself.

In New York on September 11 2001, many off-duty fire fighters traveled to the World Trade Center as additional personnel on fire apparatus. Many responded to their stations, while others traveled direct to the scene by public conveyance. Many private ambulances self-dispatched to the general area, which impeded access by other equipment.

To a lesser extent, this same self-dispatch occurred in Washington DC on September 11 2001. In both cases most of these responders did so without the knowledge or permission of their own organization, and without the knowledge of the on-scene Incident Commander. According to the after action reports, this greatly complicated the exercise of command, increased the risks faced by the bona fide responders, and increased the challenge of accountability.

To control the corresponding risks, the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) and the National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC) discourages the practice of self-dispatch among emergency response personnel to emergency incidents without notification or request.

The RACES policy is consistent with this national policy. These self-dispatched people are often called Freelancers by the emergency personnel.

This policy reads in part:

Uncontrolled and uncoordinated arrival of resources at emergencies cause significant accountability issues as a result of personnel freelancing and creating additional safety risks to fire fighters, civilians and others who are operating within the parameters of the incident action plan.

Chaos at the scene occurs, creating additional safety risks because these companies or individuals are not aware of the overall strategic plan.

Further, un-requested emergency units and emergency personnel at incidents disrupt the accountability and incident management system.

An incident management system requires that a formal structure is utilized to determine the needs of an incident. The needs of the incident are in most cases directly related to personnel and equipment. When resources show up that has not been requested, the incident management system fails. Unplanned resources in many cases block roads, create traffic jams, restrict access and ultimately affect the safety of those fire fighters who are operating at the scene by denying them needed resources. **Freelancing of personnel and fire companies adversely impact incident management systems and require that the Incident Commander assign more personnel to control and coordinate these resources that were not requested.**

Finally:

The ultimate risk is to emergency personnel when uncoordinated resources and freelancing by individuals and crews, create additional risks that are unnecessary and could be avoided. Lives are at risk when fire companies or personnel leave their local communities, thereby reducing the level of protection and support should an emergency occur, or when other fire fighters perform contradictory operators or interfere with assigned units performing their duties.

The policy concludes with the encouragement for local fire chiefs, elected officials, managers and labor leaders to develop a written policy to control emergency personnel from self-dispatching to an emergency event unless requested by the Incident Commander.

The occurrence and resulting problems, with self-dispatch are too well known among professional responders. **The Local RACES Organization seeks to be recognized as a well trained, disciplined, resourceful, and responsible group. We should demonstrate the same restraint and not self-dispatch.**

(The above information was obtained from the World Wide Web and edited for this document.)

10-Codes and Plain English

In Washington, DC, if a police officer says 10-50, he or she is talking about a car accident. Across the line in Montgomery County, Maryland, 10-50 means an officer needs help. And that's the way it is across much of the country, 10-codes used in one jurisdiction are not the same as those used in another. That's why it is important that responders and incident managers use common terminology. **There simply is no room for misunderstanding in an emergency situation.**

The use of plain language in emergency response is a matter of public safety, especially the safety of first responders and those affected by the incident. It is critical that all local responders, as well as those coming into the impacted area from other jurisdictions and other states as well as the federal government, know and utilize commonly established operational structures, terminology, policies and procedures. **This is what NIMS and the Incident Command System (ICS) are all about - achieving interoperability across agencies, jurisdictions and disciplines.**

The use of common terminology is about the ability of area commanders, state and local EOC personnel, federal operational coordinators, and responders to communicate clearly with each other and effectively coordinate response activities, no matter what the size, scope or complexity of the incident. The ability of responders from different jurisdictions and different disciplines to work together depends greatly on their ability to communicate with each other.

It is required that plain English be used for multi-agency, multi-jurisdiction and multi-discipline events, such as major disasters and exercises. **Beginning in the fiscal year 2006, federal preparedness grant funding is contingent on the use of plain English in incidents requiring assistance from responders from other agencies, jurisdictions and functional disciplines.**

While the NIMS Integration Center doesn't require plain English for internal operations, we strongly encourage it. We believe it is important to practice everyday terminology and procedures that will need to be used in emergency incidents and disasters. NIMS implementation is a long-term effort and it's probably not possible to persuade everyone to change ingrained habits overnight. But we do hope that over time, everyone will understand the importance of using common terminology, that is, plain English, every day.

(From the NIMS Integration Center)

Websites of Interest: SAFECOM

In this issue of the Newsletter we will take a look at the SAFECOM web site. SAFECOM is a communications program of the Department of Homeland Security. **SAFECOM provides research, development, testing and evaluation, guidance, tools, and templates on interoperable communications-related issues to local, tribal, state, and Federal emergency response agencies.** The Office of Emergency Communications (OEC) supports SAFECOM's development of guidance, tools and templates. The Office for Interoperability and Compatibility (OIC) supports SAFECOM-related research, development, testing, evaluation and standards.

This website provides members of the emergency response community and other constituents with information and resources to help them meet their communications and interoperability needs. It offers comprehensive information on topics relevant to emergency response communications and features best practices that have evolved from real-world situations.

A wealth of information is available at this site. There are white papers dealing with Interoperability and communications, to guides for writing a memorandum of understanding. Be sure and checkout the Tools section on SAFECOM's web site at:
<http://www.safecomprogram.gov/SAFECOM/>

Local Hamfest's:

Wichita Area Hamfest – October 4, 2008
2349 N Amidon Wichita, Ks
<http://vcarc.org/2.html>
E-mail: korh@cox.net

Southside ARC, Lee's Summit, Mo. – Oct 18, 2008
<http://southsidearc.org/>
E-mail: kb0yjn@juno.com

Saint Louis ARC Hamfest – October 25, 2008
<http://www.halloweenhamfest.org/>
E-mail: bcsluder@msn.com

Local Hamfest's (cont: from page 4)

Chanute Hamfest: Oct. 4, 2008: 8am till noon, Zion Lutheran Church Activity Center, 1202 West Main Chanute, KS.

Admission at the door \$2.00, drawing for cash prize. Three (3) tables free as available, there should be a few available. Silent auction for Icom 781 and a few other items from an estate sale. Example: A PK232, new in the box. Never used still with the receipt inside. Icom dual band HT, new in the box. Several used items from general coverage receiver to 2 Icom VHF HTs. Auction will end at 11am. A few other radios for sale, Yaesu FT450, FL2100B amp, Kenwood 2 meter mobile, Kenwood TS-50 w/At-50. A few tables with similar items and the usual hamfest "stuff".

Due to gas prices we will not have a commercial vendor available this year. The focus of this event is social. Time to share a cup of coffee and visit. Brag about the new radio and the DX worked.

Contact person Gary Sherard, WA5FLV 620-431-1667.
E-mail: wa5flv@hotmail.com

Enid ARC Hamfest, Enid, Ok. – Nov 1, 2008
<http://www.enidhamfest.com/>
E-mail: enidhamfest@yahoo.com

Club Website's:

Chanute Area Amateur Radio Club
<http://www.caarc.org/>

Coffeyville Amateur Radio Club
<http://www.mgarc.org/>

Independence Amateur Radio Club
<http://skynet.entz.net/webpages/n0id/>

Joplin Amateur Radio Club
<http://www.joplin-arc.org/>

Newton Amateur Radio Club
<http://www.newtonarc.org/>

Parsons Area Amateur Radio Club
<http://parson sarc.googlepages.com/>

Pittsburg Repeater Organization
<http://www.k0pro.org/>

BASIC GO-KIT

Each incident will have its own unique requirements. What we will do is start with a BASIC kit that we can expand and update on a continuing basis. The first consideration is what we will store our items in. Some of us use an expandable heavy duty cloth bag available at local retailers for about \$ 10 - \$15 . It is water resistant and red is a good color of choice to be able to locate quickly, visually.

What do we need, for a BASIC - SHORT TERM INCIDENT?

- 3 - Bottles of Bottled Water (Do NOT expose to direct sunlight)
- 4 - Power or Energy Bars (Remember even chocolate chips melt)
- 1 - Roll Toilet Paper
- 1 - Fold up cup
- 1 - Small Hand towel
- 1 - Multifunction Pocket Knife
- 1 - Small Metal Maglite
- 1 - Large Metal Maglite
- 1 - Disposable Camera
- 1 - Small First Aid Kit (Include Tylenol, Insect Repellant, Imodium, Sun Screen)
- 1 - Metal Container, with waterproof matches
- 1 - Space Blanket
- 1 - Pair Gloves (Leather)
- 2 - 55 Gallon Trash Bags
- 4 - Large Ziplock Bags
- 1 - Bound Notepad, plus pencils and pens
- 4 - Light Sticks
- 1 - Poncho
- 1 - RACES Ball Cap
- 1 - Roll Duct Tape (Small)
- 1 - Spare T - Shirt (Bright Colored or Organization Logo)
- 1 - Pack each of needed size spare batteries

Personal ID sealed from the weather and attached to the bag.

We will continue to add to this, for larger incidents, or of longer duration. This is pretty much a "universal" BASIC kit that all family members could store in a vehicle.

We will get more communications specific also, as we add to our kits. We NEED to all start this kit NOW, if you haven't already.

Waiting until it is needed is TOO LATE !!

Chuck, W5COV

Remember:

The State RACES Net is held the first Thursday of each Month on 3.940 MHz at 7:00 pm.

(You do not have to be a RACES member to check-in.)

Anyone is welcome to contribute to the newsletter. Items may be submitted either via email to: mgcoraces@mgcountyks.org Or US mail to:

MG Co. Emergency Management
RACES
300 East Main
Independence, Kansas
67301

Montgomery County RACES Website:
<http://www.mgcountyks.org/races.htm>

Local Nets:

Monday:
Coffeyville ARC Net
Coffeyville 442.875 + WR0MG 8:30pm
RACES/SATERN Net
Coffeyville 146.610 – 91.5† WR0CV 9:00pm

Tuesday:
Skywarn Net
Beaumont 145.130 – 156.7† KSOKE 7:30pm
Parsons ARC Net
Parsons 146.685 - NORRY 8:30pm

Thursday:
Chanute ARC 146.745 – 100† AIOE 7:30pm
Independence ARC Net
Indep 145.490 - NOID 8:00pm
6 Meter Simplex Net
Liberal, Mo 52.525 FM KB0MSB 9:00pm

**Montgomery County Emergency Mgt
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300 East Main
Independence, Kansas
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