

2023 Maryland – DC Section
ARRL Simulated Emergency Test



Maryland - District of Columbia Section

Draft Copy

ARES® Simulated Emergency Test
Exercise Plan ver 1.0

October 7, 2023



Jim Montgomery
WB3KAS
ARRL Section Emergency Coordinator
Maryland - DC Section
wb3kas@arrl.org

Preface

The Maryland - DC Section SET Sequel continues. The 2013 and 2014 SETs were continuations of each other; *“Hurricane Chessie”* graced us in 2013, and the delivery of requested ham gear in 2014 in support of a tornado from that hurricane. 2015 SET was the survey of “swollen rivers and streams” as the result of the hurricane’s aftermath. 2016 SET was a Section wide ‘study’ of Winlink and NVIS propagation. In 2017 the last one, before the pandemic put a squeeze on SETs for three years, we deployed to the Eastern Shore at the request of the Maryland Emergency Management Agency to provide emergency communication to those agencies in need. The saga continues now with **Exploring the United States National Geodetic Survey Markers.**

INCIDENT BRIEFING (ICS-201) modified
2023 MDC Section Simulated Emergency Test Exercise Plan

1. Incident Name 2023 MDC Section SET	2. Incident Number 2023 MDC-SETEP	3. Date/Time Initiated 2023-08-22 1909
4. Locations All MDC ARES Counties and jurisdictions		
5. Introduction This is the master plan for the 2023 ARRL Simulated Emergency Test (SET) Exercise for the Maryland–DC (MDC) Section. It will address all aspects of the Exercise within the confines of the Section.		
6. SET Date and Time The 2023 MDC Section SET will commence at 0900L on Saturday October 7, 2023 and will end at approximately 1500L on the same day.		
7. Background Geodetic Survey Markers, also called just survey markers, survey monuments, or geodetic marks, are objects placed to mark key survey points on the Earth's surface. All sorts of different objects, ranging from the familiar brass disks to liquor bottles, clay pots, and rock cairns, have been used over the years as survey markers. Some truly monumental markers have been used to designate tripoints, or the meeting points of three or more countries. In the 19th century, these marks were often drill holes in rock ledges, crosses or triangles chiseled in rock, or copper or brass bolts sunk into bedrock. Today in the United States, the most common geodetic survey marks are cast metal disks with stamped legends on their face set in rock ledges, embedded in the tops of concrete pillars, or affixed to the tops of pipes that have been sunk into the ground. These marks are intended to be permanent, and disturbing them is generally prohibited by federal and state law. (source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Survey_marker#)		

INCIDENT BRIEFING (ICS-201) modified
2023 MDC Section Simulated Emergency Test Exercise Plan

8. Mission

The main mission of this SET is to exercise a *Deployment* as we have few to no disasters requiring the need to venture out and support served agencies.

This simulated emergency test exercise plan is based on the premise that periodic emergency drills enhances the ability of emergency communicator's deployment skills to perform in actual emergencies and, as such, improves and promotes problem solving.

9. Current and Planed Objectives

- 9.1 Demonstrate the capability to photograph, track and deliver required Geodetic Marker conditions at various locations in and around the MDC Section.
- 9.2 Demonstrate the ability to coordinate and work with adjacent ARES® Groups in accomplishing a required task.
- 9.3 Demonstrate the usability of APRS to provide a means to an end.
- 9.4 Demonstrate the ability to engage in a deployment.

10. Participating Organizations

Any and all ARES/RACES Groups, ACS Groups MARS and Amateur Radio Clubs in the Section are most welcome to join in and participate in the State wide exercise.

11. Scenario

EXERCISE. . EXERCISE. . EXERCISE

The current year's budget cycle resulted in deep funding cuts in NOAA field operations. Specific cuts in surveying their Marker inventory were excessive enough to almost eliminate the operation altogether. NOAA management kicked around the idea of soliciting volunteer organizations to help. Amateur Radio was at the top of their list. NOAA has asked the Amateur Radio community to take on the challenge for the State of Maryland. Specific NOAA information requested Marker inventory verification such as Marker condition (subjective), general location, GPS coordinates and a photograph. MD Section SEC has accepted the challenge.

INCIDENT BRIEFING (ICS-201) modified
2023 MDC Section Simulated Emergency Test Exercise Plan

12. Plan of Action

NOAA sends out an email Thursday morning October 5 to the SEC requesting Amateur Radio support. The SEC forwards the message to the District ECs for action. Friday night October 6 at 2000L an SET Echolink conference will be held among the ECs and other interested parties to discuss deployment particulars. Email to follow with an agenda.

At 0800L Saturday morning, the survey teams will deploy a buddy system (Teams of three) in selected counties to provide the requested information. back to a centralized-county command post. Survey teams will have an APRS/voice/data operator in the passenger seat. Multiple teams will survey multiple sites during their deployment to canvass a good segment of their county.

13. Automation Position Reporting System (APRS)

Radio Settings Frequency 144.39 CTCSS 100; Beacon 1/min; Status 'MDC Section SET'

Tracking the Teams Tracking will be accomplished via APRS by local support. Surveyors should have APRS and repeater access capability in order to fulfill the intent of the exercise. Two tracking stations located somewhere in the Section will provide en route update reports to the SEC via Winlink Express at the Section Communications Command Center, Brandywine, MD.

APRS Trackers Trackers are scattered through out the State and the USA. As of this writing the following Trackers are confirmed

Western Section Region	Bill	N3TCR
Central Section Region	TBD	<<< >>>
Eastern Section Region	Bob	W3GAC
DE, Sussex County	Steve	KC3DSO
Pueblo CO	Mike	WB0YKO
WNC & SC	TBD	

14. Bands and Frequencies

Within county operations, use available VHF/UHF Repeaters. No HF Operations is anticipated.

INCIDENT BRIEFING (ICS-201) modified
2023 MDC Section Simulated Emergency Test Exercise Plan

16. Sample Markers



Geodetic Survey Markers

These are typical Markers found in the database around the USA.

17. Communications Concept

All county Amateur Radio groups playing in the Exercise may not yet have the ability to utilize Winlink Express to pass their observation results to their county collection point.

They may use any means at their disposal to perform this function. Cell phones are acceptable.

If the designated county has in place a mode of choice, then use it. However, emergency communications across county lines in the MDC Section shall use the Winlink protocol to achieve this objective.

INCIDENT BRIEFING (ICS-201) modified
2023 MDC Section Simulated Emergency Test Exercise Plan

18. Drill Reporting Requirements

Report shall be in Excel spreadsheet format as follows

Time	District	County	Observer	Location	Lat	Lon	Report
0934	Central	PRGE	K3ERA	Piscataway Ck	38-42-20	076-57-57	Easy access
1245	Central	PRGE	W3PGC	School House Pond, Upper Marlboro	38-49-04	076-45-08	Spilled over onto road
Submitted by: <<Call sign & Full Name>>				Date: yy-mm-dd		Time (local):	

Send SET County Team Reports to a centrally located repository site for summation.

Send SET County Summation Report to wb3kas@winlink.org.

Subject Line Item shall be, **"2023-10-07 <<4 ltr county code>> MDC Section SET Report"**.

19. Safety Concerns

19.1 Uniform of the Day

If you have a yellow ARES EmComm vest of any kind, wear it. If you have access to a hard hat bring it along. If you have the magnetic vehicle ARES sign put it on your car. Be mindful of your surroundings. Do not jeopardize your life trying to get a closer look at the markers; it's not worth it! If anybody stops and wants to know what is going on, show them this document and explain this is a state wide (not state sponsored) ham radio exercise.

19.2 SKYWARN

SKYWARN has been alerted of our SET and has agreed to inform us of any potential dangerous wx conditions affecting SET operations.

INCIDENT BRIEFING (ICS-201) modified
2023 MDC Section Simulated Emergency Test Exercise Plan

20. How to Find Selected Geodetic Survey Markers in Your County

Access the National Geodetic Survey OPUS Share Map (noaa.gov) at

<https://www.ngs.noaa.gov/opusmap/>

You will see a map of the USA showing orange clusters (circles) indicating the number of Markers in that region. Continue clicking on the ball of interest until a detailed map appears showing the Markers in both green squares and blue stars.

At this point select Markers that appear to have easy access and minimum interaction with vehicular traffic. Safety is paramount.

21. Data Acquisition

Information requested at the Marker site is quite simple. Acquire the GPS coordinates. Confirm the latitude/longitude coordinates at the Marker site with those posted on the NOAA site. Take a photograph of the Marker. Send/relay this information to your central collection location for further processing.

22. 2023 MDC SET Echolink Conference

Echolink meeting Friday night October 6, 8pm (Wash Conf Node?)

Finalize deployment details and

APRS and WL2K call signs and teams

Prepared by: WB3KAS

Position/Title

Signature

ICS-201 (modified)

Date/Time:

Jim Montgomery, WB3KAS

References:

Maryland - DC Emergency Coordinator List and Contact Information

County	4-Ltr Cnty Code	EC Name	Call	Email	Notes
Allegany	ALLE	Chis Clive	KC3SVG	wmdhamradio@gmail.com	
Anne Arundel	ANAR	Ken Reid	KG4USN	kg4usn@arrl.net	
Baltimore County	BACO	Sam Richardson	W3NTS	rescue4520@yahoo.com	
Calvert	CALV	Shawn Donely	N3AE	n3ae@arrl.net	
Caroline	CARO	Cathy Jones	KB3TVF	cbjonestf@msn.com	
Carroll	CARR	Larry Solarczyk	WX3F	solarcl1765@gmail.com	
Cecil	CECI	George Remhof	KB3LJB	gremhof@yahoo.com	
Charles	CHAR	Bob Davidson	KB3KOW	kb3kow@yahoo.com	
Dist of Columbia	DICO	Liz Goodson	K4LIZ	elizabeth.goodson@gmail.com	
Dorchester	DORC	Dave deRussy	N3SCF	n3scf001@gmail.com	
Frederick	FRED	Sandy Chesney	KB3EOF	mac3iii@gmail.com	
Garrett	GARR	Howard Reynolds	WA3EOQ	wa3eoq@gmail.com	
Harford	HARF	Steven Fook	K2EJ	chibasan@aol.com	
Howard	HOWA	Andy Protigal	N3AWP	awprotigal@gmail.com	
Kent	KENT	vacant			vacant
Montgomery	MONT	Tom Horne	W3TDH	w3tdh@arrl.net	
Prince George's	PRGE	Jim Montgomery	WB3KAS	wb3kas@arrl.net	
Queen Anne's	QUAN	vacant			vacant
Somerset	SOME	vacant			vacant
St. Mary's	STMA	Chris McGraw	KB3SKP	chris@kb2skp.com	
Talbot	TALB	Bob Luff	W3GAC	luff.bob@gmail.com	
Washington	WASH	Maurice Eigenbrode	NI2W	ni2w@arrl.net	
Wicomico	WICO	Jamin Mast	KB3ZFU	jamin@overthebay.me	
Worcester	WORC	vacant			vacant
Updated: September 26, 2023					