

**PLANNING DOCUMENT FOR THE WEST CENTRAL FLORIDA SECTION OF ARRL  
SIMULATED EMERGENCY TEST ON OCTOBER 2, 2021**

**Revision 5.0 - 10/01/21**

**PREFACE TO THE SET:** Zoom meeting on September 16, 2021 with representatives from Hardee, Highlands, Polk and Sarasota Counties

Hardee: Darrell Davis KT4WX

Highlands: Randy Payne K4EZM, Fred Seely AA4ME, Bill Robfogel KB4WAR, Mike Gormley WA8VEC, Diane Saunders K0DSL

Polk: Christine Duez K4KJN, Mike Shreve N6MRS, Kevin Tower KD7OAB

Sarasota: Gary Wells WB9AYD, Steve Rossi KS4YP

A final planning meeting was held via Zoom on September 30, 2021 to finalize the plans for the SET. All of the previous participants joined us with the following additional participants : Charlotte - Tom Chance K9XV, Hardee: Mike Douglas W4MDD, Highlands: Ken Klay KB0QBU and Bob Myer WA0NZI, Pinellas: Clayton Parrot KJ4RUS, Dave Byrum KA4EBX, and Sarasota: David Horvath KO4EOD, Les Keegan N4LPK, Mike Kearney KG7KIQ, Don Opdycke KT3V.

**PURPOSE OF THE SET:** To test HF and VHF/UHF communications between the Emergency Operations Centers (EOCs) in the above listed counties and any others wishing to participate in the exercise. We also welcome any amateurs operating from home or portable/mobile stations.

**GOALS:**

1. To demonstrate the ability of Amateur Radio to maintain lines of communications between the EOCs of the counties in WCF either directly or indirectly through relaying.
2. To demonstrate the ability of Amateur Radio to do emailing through radio by the use of WinLink.
3. The results of these tests will provide information on the ability of EOCs in the West Central Florida Section of the ARRL to communicate between one another using Amateur Radio. All ARES® groups in WCF will be given the information in written records, thus providing a means of predicting which frequencies are most likely to be usable during emergency activations in our section.

**RESOURCES:**

The ARES® members of each county under the leadership of their Emergency Coordinator will use the designated radio systems in their counties to communicate with the other counties on HF and VHF/UHF simplex and repeaters. In addition, all groups are encouraged to exchange WinLink messages and to send such messages to other individuals and groups as they see fit. Use the frequencies listed in WinLink software. Actual frequencies you use can be announced on NI4CE or, time permitting, the exercise net control station (Christine at WC4PEM) may be able to announce them.

**VHF/UHF Repeater and Simplex Frequencies:**

| COUNTY    | CALLSIGN | REPEATER<br>FREQUENCY<br>(MHz) | PL<br>Tone<br>(Hz) | Transmit<br>Offset | SIMPLEX<br>FREQUENCY<br>(MHz) |
|-----------|----------|--------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|
| Charlotte | WX4E     | 146.745                        | 136.5              | - 600 KHz          | 146.550                       |
| Charlotte | WX4E     | 444.975                        | 136.5              | + 5 MHz            | 146.550                       |
| Hardee    | N4EMH    | 146.625                        | 127.3              | - 600 KHz          | 146.625                       |
| Highlands | W4HEM    | 145.330                        | 100.0              | - 600 KHz          | 146.535                       |
| Manatee   | KM4EC    | 146.820                        | 100.0              | - 600 KHz          | 147.470                       |
| Pinellas  | W4ACS    | 145.170                        | 156.7              | - 600 KHz          | 146.430                       |
| Pinellas  | W4ACS    | 443.400                        | 156.7              | + 5 MHz            | 146.430                       |
| Polk      | WC4PEM   | 146.985                        | 127.3              | - 600 KHz          | 147.510                       |
| Polk      | WC4PEM   | 443.900                        | 127.3              | + 5 MHz            | 147.510                       |
| Polk      | WC4PEM   | 444.625                        | 127.3              | + 5 MHz            | 147.510                       |
| Sarasota  | N4SER    | 146.730                        | 100.0              | - 600 Khz          | 146.550                       |
| Sarasota  | N4SER    | 442.475                        | 100.0              | + 5 MHz            | 146.550                       |

## HF Frequencies:

| BAND  | FREQUENCY                      |
|---|--------------------------------|
| 75 Meters   | 3.925 MHz plus or minus 5 KHz  |
| 40 Meters   | 7.242 MHz: plus or minus 5 KHz |
| 20 Meters   | 14285 MHz: plus or minus 5 KHz |
| NOTE: All frequency are plus or minus 5 KHz to allow for QRM. Net Control has the authority to make any needed changes to allow for QRM -- any change will be announced at the beginning of the hour. |                                |

## PROCEDURE:

The SET will be held on October 2, 2021 during the hours of 09:00 to 12:00 EDT. Throughout the exercise Christine K4KJN will serve as Net Control for the roll call on all frequencies. She will be operating from the Polk County EOC using the call WC4PEM. PLEASE NOTE: all nets in the exercise will be directed nets; ALL calls go through Net Control and no station should leave a net unless Net Control releases them.

Immediately before each hour Net Control will announce the HF frequency to be used during the new hour. All stations need to listen to this because it may be necessary for Net Control to change a frequency due to QRM.

At the beginning of each hour roll call be held on the HF frequency for that hour. Participating stations need to monitor NI4CE for any change in frequency. Roll call will be repeated every 15 minutes of the hour on the frequency for that hour. Roll calls need to move quickly to allow time for VHF/UHF and WinLink activities between each one. NO CHIT CHAT HERE BUT GIVE ENOUGH TIME FOR SIGNAL STRENGTHES TO BE NOTED AND RECORDED. For example, Christine will call W4HEM and I will respond, "WC4PEM this is Highlands County EOC W4HEM. You are S9 + 20db." She will give me a signal report and move on to the next station.

During a roll call if you hear a station calling Net Control and Christine is not responding, say, "Relay W4HEM" (use your station's call). If Christine responds to you inform her about the station you hear calling her and offer to relay for that station. Relay only if Net Control asks you to do so. Also, please give priority to EOC stations that offer to relay a station to Net Control.

If a given group has enough operators, it is suggested that while the HF roll calls are being done you can have operators trying to reach other EOCs and individual stations on VHF/UHF voice or WinLink via repeaters and simplex. DO NOT USE NI4CE FOR THIS OR FOR COORDINATING CONTACTS. WE NEED TO KEEP THE NI4CE SYSTEM AS OPEN FOR USE AS POSSIBLE

IT IS IMPORTANT THAT ALL STATIONS KEEP A CAREFUL RECORD OF STATIONS HEARD ON HF AND THEIR SIGNAL STRENGTH. YOUR LOG SHOULD INDICATE THE USE OF RELAYS WHEN THEY OCCUR. LOG FORMS WILL BE PROVIDED FOR THIS PURPOSE AND THE LOG IS TO BE SUBMITTED TO CHRISTINE K4KJN IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE EXERCISE ENDS. A RECORD OF STATIONS HEARD ON VHF/UHF REPEATERS AND SIMPLEX SHOULD ALSO BE KEPT AND A COPY SUBMITTED WITH THE LOG FOR HF. ALL LOGS SHOULD INCLUDE POWER LEVEL, AND ANTENNA TYPE AND HEIGHT.

Put your antenna on the back of the first page of your log.

At the end of the exercise please get your logs sent to Christine K4KJN ASAP. A summary report will be prepared and sent to all participants in the exercise. We strongly suggest that a copy of this be kept in the radio room of all EOCs in the WCF Section.