



Arapahoe County Amateur Radio Emergency Service After Action Report

Date of activity:	December 21 and 22 2006
Statement of problem	Severe Weather/Blizzard
Description of Exercise Scenario	
Duration of activity:	Three days and Six operational periods
Serving amateur radio groups participating:	Arapahoe County District 22 and Denver District 13
Served agencies participating:	Arapahoe County OEM and Cunningham Fire District
Describe served agency participation:	During this event D22 provided weather spotting to both served agencies.
Number of Amateurs participating:	17
List of amateurs participating (optional):	I can only provide a partial list; as the weather form did not account for all call signs: KC0VES W0UAW KC0UUO N0MY Y KC0LIX KB9AKD KC0YYF KC0VAU KC0VPR N0NJM KB0QQW KB0LP KB0UBZ KA0ZFI N0PUF N0ADD N0POH KC0CAT, D13
Person-hours of Amateur service:	119
Describe goals of activity, both for served agency and serving group.	The primary goal was to keep members safe and provide useful communications. The secondary goal was to provide weather spotting of actual conditions observed around Arapahoe County. This information was used by both the Fire Department and OEM to

determine severity of storm. During this storm Denver ARES District 13 contacted District 22 to request assistance with 4 x 4 vehicles that could be used to transport needed medical personnel. In discussion with OEM, it was determined to wait until the storm diminished before placing members on the streets. Due to the severity of the storm we were able to put 6 4 x 4 vehicles on the road. Most other members were "snowed" in. D22 made a total of 10 transports of medical personnel. The transports were handled by:

Emit W0UAW
Ben KB0UBZ
Rob KC0UUO
David KC0VES

During the afternoon of the second period I was able to transport UBZ and ZFI to Arapahoe Sheriff's Office where communications was set up. On the second day UBZ and ZFI were able to go to the Sheriff's Office with their own vehicle.

I would compliment our net control operators on frequent status checks of the field units.

On the second day, I had our control operators call all members on the roster and determine their status and if the member needed any assistance.

During the net N0PUF, W0UAW, KB0UBZ, and I conducted messaging via the Packet Cluster. This worked very well.

Pre-exercise Activities

Did the event fulfill the goals?

Explain:

What went well:

YES

1. With the advanced notice that I was able to provide via email, many members were ready and listening on the net.

Areas needing improvement

2. Dan N0PUF and Emit W0UAW did a fantastic job of setting up the net, developing a spreadsheet tracking form, and very professional communications. I have received many compliments on how our net traffic sounded. One in particular stated, "very professional, they sound like real dispatchers".
3. Communication on the 146.640 repeater worked well until we set up communications in the small EOC room. A mobile radio with magnetic mount antenna did not work well on that frequency. Moving the net to 146.880 worked better.
4. Packet Operations.
 1. Incident Command Structure
I need to continue to assist members in setting up an incident command structure and announcing that information to all on the net. I believe that listeners generally knew that I was the IC and Dan N0PUF was Operations, but no forms were completed or formal announcements made. I will strive to accomplish these activities at the beginning of an incident.
 2. Awareness of Frequency
Determining the best frequency for net use is dependent upon many variables such as; the equipment and antenna that that net controllers have to use. Location of repeaters and their general coverage. We found during this event that the 146.640 is not a useable repeater from the small EOC at the Sheriff's Office. The 146.880 worked better. We need to be flexible and I will continue to work with the OEM to see if there is any way we can get some better antenna installed for our use in that room.
 3. Use of IC-214 Individual Station Log Form

We got better during the two events at using the IC-214 Individual Station Log form. However, I would to see us strive for all stations that participate to complete and forward a properly completed IC-214 Individual Station Log Form on every event.

4. Tracking of Call Signs

For after action reports I would like Net Control to also capture the call signs of participating amateur stations.

5. Periodic Role Call during the Net.

I believe it would be beneficial for the net control operator to take a complete roll call of stations at the top of the hour and their status.

6. Better call out procedure?

During this event there was plenty of advanced notice, so it was easy to get members activated.

However, callout are not always going occur so conveniently. I believe that some reorganization of the roster and discussion of other technologies is needed. There are various methods of notification such as: email/sms/dtmf paging/ctcss paging blast or even listing in callout list the user's hangout frequency. Some of these items have been explored in the past, but I think it would be beneficial to have a new discussion.

7. Small EOC room at Sheriff's Office.

The small EOC room only has a telephone. It is a good room for us to use, and I will work with OEM to see what equipment we might be able to acquire or place into the room for our use. I would like to see the minimum of a D700 radio, laptop computer, and cheap bubble jet printer. If we're doing SSTV, appropriate device(s) to receive the

pictures.

8. Continue to explore other repeaters and determine their suitability for use by D22.

Lessons learned
Additional training needed
Changes in the Emergency Plan
Other Corrective Actions
General comments

None
None
Both Arapahoe OEM and I were very impressed with both the turnout and professional radio operation of all the members who participated. Arapahoe OEM also was very impressed with the weather spreadsheet information. Arapahoe OEM and I are exploring more ways that D22 can participate and provide meaningful assistance. A few of the ideas were discussing are:

1. Additional Packet Operations
2. Use of APRS.
3. Adding SSTV to weather spotting.

Ideas for future exercises

Covered above

Report submitted by:

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