

Introduction to Emergency Communication Course

Section 1--The Framework: How You Fit In

Topic 1: Introduction to Emergency Communication



ARRL *The national association for
AMATEUR RADIO*



Communications Emergency

- Failure in critical comms system that puts public at risk



ARRL *The national association for*
AMATEUR RADIO

What Makes a Good Emcomm Volunteer?

- Help others
- Team player/take direction
- Think on your feet



ARRL *The national association for
AMATEUR RADIO*

What We Are Not

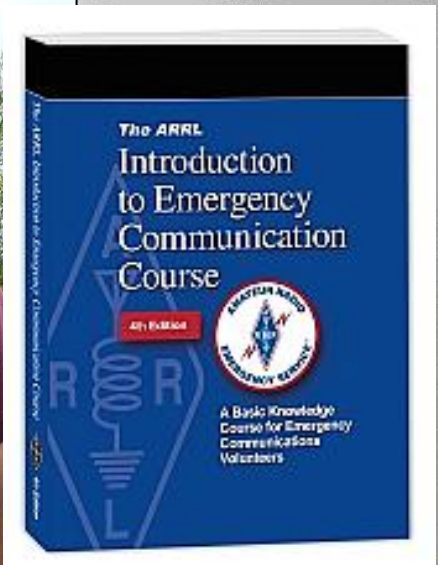
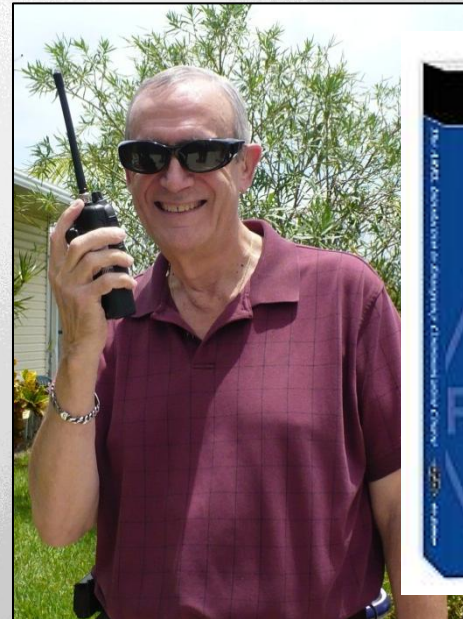
- Not first responders
- Have no authority
 - In most cases we cannot make decisions for others or make demands on the agency we serve
- Can only do what we are trained to do



ARRL The national association for
AMATEUR RADIO

What do we bring to the table?

- Equipment – expand capacity
- Frequencies
- Operator skills—basic, emcomm



ARRL The national association for
AMATEUR RADIO

Hobby vs EmComm

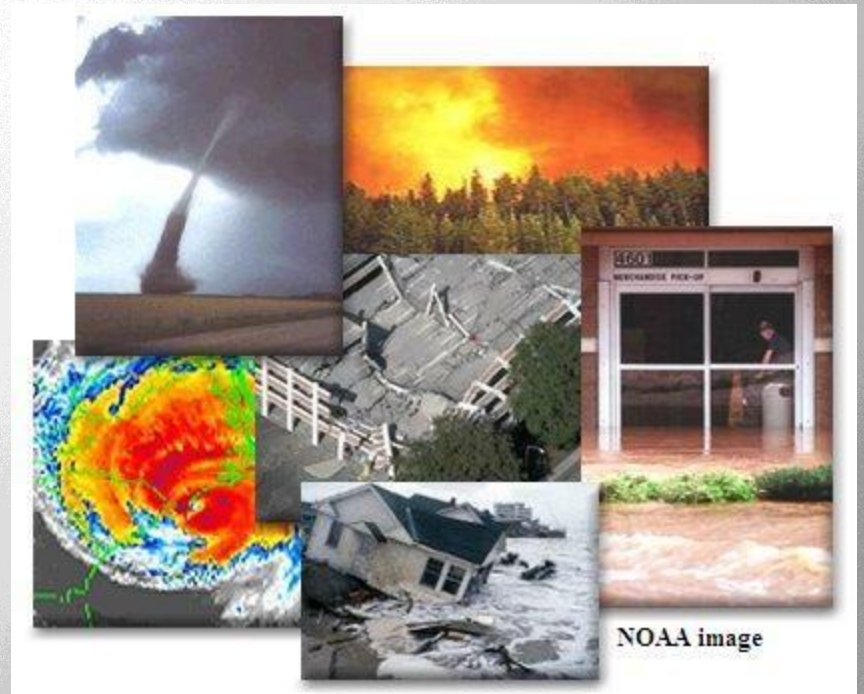
Participants	Only hams	Hams/non hams
Time	Convenience	Real time/critical
Nets	Daily, weekly	Several together
Drills/pubservice	Planned/length	Little or no warning; days
In charge	One group	Several
Equipment	Desk, mobile, HT	Portable; battery
Contacts	No restrictions	Specific contacts



ARRL *The national association for
AMATEUR RADIO*

Possible Missions/Deployments

- Will vary with the specific agency, job



ARRL *The national association for
AMATEUR RADIO*

Role: Emergency Communicator

- Get the message through
- In addition to ham radio
 - Fax
 - CB
 - Family Radio
 - Agency Radio System
 - 800 MHz system
 - WebEOC



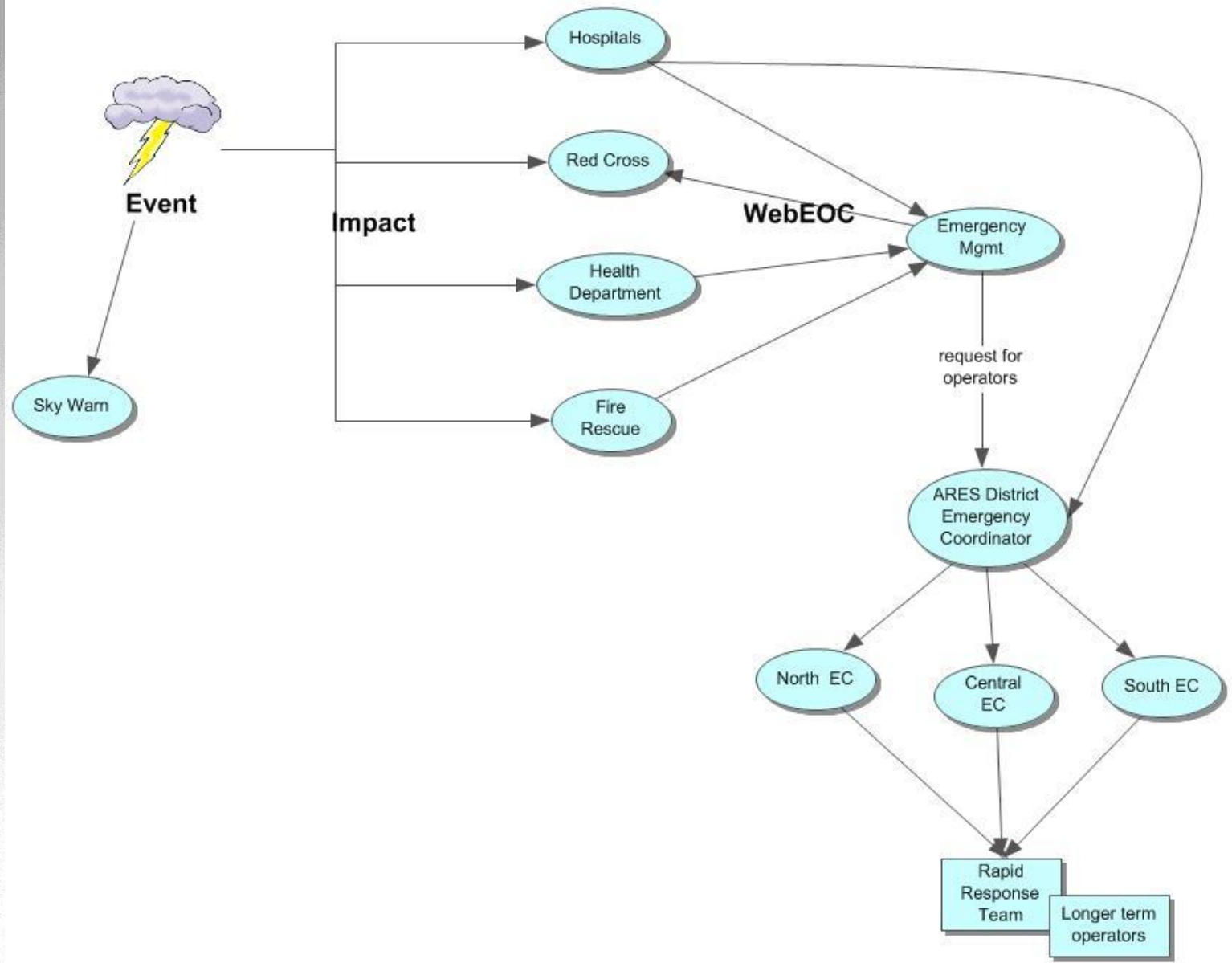
ARRL The national association for
AMATEUR RADIO

Preparedness for EmComm

- Earliest phases-no emcomm
 - Watches—48 hrs
 - Warning—36 hrs
- Get ready, monitor frequencies, stay alert



Response: Request for Operators



EmComm Response

- Resource or logistics net—call sign
- Operations begin—different nets form
- Flexibility with nets



ARRL *The national association for*
AMATEUR RADIO


Recovery: Demobilization

- Not all at once
- Debriefing
- After action reports



ARRL *The national association for*
AMATEUR RADIO

Questions

1. When does a communications emergency exist?
 - a. Whenever the public is at risk
 - b. When there is an earthquake in your area and the public is inconvenienced
 - c. When a critical communications system fails and the public is inconvenienced
 - d. When a critical communications system fails and the public is put at risk 





2. Which of the following is it most important for an emcomm group to do at the end of an emergency communication operation?
- a. Review the effectiveness of its response
 - b. Take photos of the activity
 - c. Call the local newspaper to schedule interviews
 - d. Review the activities of the first responders



3. Which of the following is NOT a responsibility of emergency communicators?
- a. Making demands on the agency being served
 - b. Having radios, frequencies, and basic radio skills
 - c. Being licensed and preauthorized for national and international communications
 - d. Possessing emergency communications skills



4. Which of the following describes the function of a Rapid Response Team (RRT)?
- a. To handle large-scale emergencies over an extended period
 - b. To deploy a quick response in a very short time 
 - c. To establish and operate a storm watch prior to any emergency
 - d. To review the effectiveness of an emergency communications group

5. In an emergency situation – when a served agency asks you to forward an urgent message – which one of the following methods would you NOT employ?
- a. CB radio
 - b. Family radio
 - c. Informal, conversational grapevine 
 - d. The served agency's own radio system