Eastern New York (ENY)

Simulated Emergency Test (SET) 2023

**Date:  Saturday, October 7**

**Time:  9AM ~ 12PM**

**Location: ENY Counties**

**Scenario:**

A severe winter ice storm has impacted several counties in the ENY section disrupting power, communications lines, and blocking roadways, etc.

The storm hits in early October and after the initial damage has been identified several secondary issues are recognized.

Although several repeater sites in the ENY section have backup power some of those sites require fuel (propane, diesel, batteries, or other fuel) to be replenished during an emergency operation.

The repeater systems that run at a public safety radio site systems are mostly operational, running on emergency power. The county emergency management offices have requested backup communications be established between the counties in the ENY section.

Some public safety radio systems eventually fail. There is no county-wide or longer-distance comms. There is no cell service or Internet. Some amateur radio repeaters also fail as they are not configured with backup power or with only limited backup power.

Assistance from ARES is requested. Communications is needed between the county EOC, Incident Command Post, staging areas, shelters, and/or other locations. Some roads have been cleared and opened enough that hams can get from their homes to these locations. (In an actual situation, it may be that transportation is provided by 4-wheel drive vehicles, snowmobile, or whatever, so this may be an opportunity for those with good portable go kits to practice not being able to take a fully equipped vehicle to a deployment.)

Your county government/emergency management department also needs to communicate with the New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services to coordinate state and local disaster response, and with neighboring counties to coordinate mutual aid.

The objective for each county ARES group is to establish county-wide communications, and communication in/out of the county, as best possible with available resources, with only limited access to repeaters that have sustained backup power.

If the county EOC has operational amateur radio equipment, it should be activated as one of the locations. If not, set up in the EOC parking lot if you get permission to do so. If you cannot do that, you set up as close as you can where you do have permission.

Pick one other location that might be a major operations center and deploy a communications team to it.

All participating hams can and should deploy if able and willing. They can go to the closest school, church, firehouse, hospital, health center, or other critical facility or potential shelter /community aid location. If they can plan to get in and set up, that is great. If they can engage the staff in the exercise, even better. If not operate from the parking lot or nearby to simulate a deployment. Others can operate from home stations (preferably on emergency power but to get maximum participation this will not be required), as relay stations.

Operators should be on-station and operational by 9 AM.

Use all **radio-only** means of communication at your disposal that is **not dependent on local infrastructure** (limited repeater use or hotspots/Internet linking). HF, VHF, UHF. FM, SSB, digital voice, NBEMS, Winlink (peer-to-peer, or to any RMS *outside the affected area because we are not assuming the power and communications emergency covers more than the ENY counties*), VarAC, CW, etc. If CB or GMRS works, use it. Maybe this gets some non-licensed people interested. Remember, some repeaters are not operational because even if they survived the ice and wind, they are out of power.

County nets will gather status reports utilizing a standard Winlink check-in form per the playbook. A section wide net will be established per the playbook. County reports will be sent to the section EC or his designee and information, instructions, or requests for information may be sent back to the counties. The net will operate until all traffic is passed. On the assumption that everyone is operating on limited power, the HF net may shut down and a second session will open at 11 AM to receive the final reports from the counties. (We may not want to relinquish a frequency once we have it because it may be hard to find another clear frequency.)  County nets may remain operational to pass additional information or messages from deployed locations or from the state/section to the EOC or from the EOC or ICP to other individual locations.

The details of section HF net operation shall be established using NVIS antennas using voice, NBEMS digital, and Winlink either peer-to-peer or by connection to RMS stations *outside the affected area*.

The use of NVIS antenna systems on HF shall be a primary objective of this exercise. Counties are encouraged to work with adjacent counties to achieve the use of NVIS antennas. See the attached NVIS document.

Each county EC must also separately score and submit your totals to the ARRL. The 2023 SET reporting form for EC’s is located here: <https://ares.arrl.org/aresSET/SET_FormA.php>

**An additional twenty-five bonus points shall be awarded to each county submitting this report online.**