

2021 Simulated Emergency Test

Assess your emergency preparedness on October 2 – 3, 2021.

Steve Ewald, WV1X

ARRL's annual Simulated Emergency Test (SET) is a nationwide exercise that focuses on the amateur radio community's commitment to being prepared and practicing how to respond before, during, and after a communications emergency.

This is a great time to check readiness for yourself, as well as your home station and portable radio equipment, antennas, and accessories in a simulated emergency-like deployment. The ARRL SET is an invitation to get involved, practice your skills, and test your response plan.

Partner Agencies and Organizations

ARRL Field Organization, Amateur Radio Emergency Service® (ARES®), National Traffic System (NTS), and Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) leaders and participants are among the many radio amateurs active in public service and emergency communications. They're developing simulated emergency scenarios in consultation with a number of agencies and organizations for whom radio amateurs are known to provide service during disasters and emergencies.

ARRL has formal relationships with several national organizations, including the American Red Cross, the National Weather Service (NWS), the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and the Salvation Army (among several others). Visit www.arrl.org/served-agencies-and-partners for more information.

National Preparedness Month is recognized each September to promote family and community disaster planning, now and throughout the year. This is a nationwide effort to encourage

everyone to take steps to prepare for emergencies in their homes, workplaces, schools, and communities. The US Department of Homeland Security works with a variety of organizations to highlight the importance of emergency preparedness and promote individual involvement through events and activities across the nation. We encourage you to consider this year's ARRL SET and all preparations for it as a demonstration of amateur radio's commitment to being prepared and ready. More information on National Preparedness Month can be found at www.ready.gov.

SET to Go!

ARRL Field Organization leaders have the option of conducting their local or Section-wide SET on another weekend besides October 2 and 3, 2021. SETs should be conducted no later than the end of the fall season or the calendar year.

To find out how to be involved in this year's SET, contact your local ARRL Emergency Coordinator or Net Manager. Contact your local club or other area clubs to find out who the Emergency Coordinator is and where the nearest ARES or NTS nets meet. In addition, refer to the ARRL Section web pages at www.arrl.org/groups/sections.



During the 2020 ARRL SET, a search and rescue team gathered prior to a simulated exercise to find two lost hikers in Shawnee State Park in western Pennsylvania. ARES members of the Bedford County Amateur Radio Society (BCARS) provided supplementary communications for 75 volunteers from 16 federal, state, and local agencies. [Lloyd Bankson Roach, K3QNT, photo]

Guidelines and specific SET reporting forms for the ARRL Section and Field Organization leaders are posted at www.arrl.org/public-service-field-services-forms. Download the forms, fill them out as appropriate, and return them to sewald@arrl.org at ARRL Headquarters (copying your Section Manager, Section Emergency Coordinator, and Section Traffic Manager).