

Radio Relay International First Quarter, 2021 Emergency Communications Exercise



The First Quarter 2021 RRI Emergency Communications Exercise simulates a widespread communications outage in which field deployment is necessary. Participation is open to all licensed radio amateurs.

At the minimum, each participant must establish a portable High Frequency station in the field, check into a traffic net, and originate an RRI *Operational Readiness Report* (OPRED) radiogram message. Options for establishing connectivity and originating the message include:

- Check-in to a manual mode traffic net.
- Establish contact with an RRI IATN CW operator on the specified watch (QSX) frequency.
- Connect to the RRI Digital Traffic Network either directly or via an authorize Digital Traffic Station.
- Originate a radiogram via the Winlink system using the Radio Relay International *RRI-Winlink Radiogram Template* or *Radiogram-ICS213 Template*.

This OPRED message format is described in the *National Emergency Communications Response Plan*, Appendix A, Example 2, page 30.

<http://radio-relay.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/RRI-NECRP-2020-8-1-Final-Approved.pdf>

The address for the OPRED radiogram message is:

Radio Relay International W6RRI
PO Box 43
Niles, MI. 49120
833-377-0722 x700

Who can participate?

Participation is open to individuals, radio clubs or local EmComm organizations (ARES®, REACT®, AUXCOMM, etc.). The goal is to exercise portable HF stations and provide an environment in which operators must implement field expedient solutions to communications problems.

The top three scoring individuals or organizations will receive an award attesting to their superior performance in the emergency exercise.

Time Duration:

Participants may set up at any time during the 24-hour period from 240001Z to 242359Z April 2021. Duration of the field deployment is at the discretion of the participating individual, radio club or EmComm organization.

Scoring:

The exercise will be scored on a point system. This point system is designed to reward additional capabilities such as liaison with local emergency communications organizations, overall deployed station technical performance, and operator proficiency. It also awards additional points to activities which require a more advanced skill set or capabilities that diversify emergency communications capabilities.

We wish to emphasize that there are three minimum required activities, one of which is establishing an HF station in the field, the other of which is checking-into a manual mode traffic and additionally, the origination of the OPRED radiogram. A failure to perform these three minimum tasks will result in a disqualification.

Net Directory:

Radio Relay International publishes a curated, up-to-date net directory. It may be found here:

<http://radio-relay.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/TrafficNets.pdf>

Watch Frequencies:

RRI Volunteers will monitor the following CW watch frequencies at 15 minutes past the hour for five minutes for any CW operators wishing to originate a radiogram:

7115 KHz at 1215 Z	14115 KHz at 1615Z
7115 KHz at 1415 Z	14115 KHz at 1815Z

Point Scoring System:

- 10 **Establishing HF capability set up in field (required)**
- 10 If operating HF QRP (5 watts or less).
- 5 If operating HF Low Power (6 to 20 watts).
- 5 If additional VHF/UHF capability is deployed (must be in conjunction with HF capability).
- 10 If using renewable energy is used (solar, wind, etc.).
- 5 If using battery power.
- 10 If connectivity to a local ARES, REACT, or other EmComm Net is present during deployment.
- 20 If connectivity to the RRI Digital Traffic Net is established in the field.
- 10 If Winlink connectivity is established in the field.
- 10 **For first radiogram (OPRED Message) transmitted via HF from field (required).**
- 10 For first radiogram received via HF in the field.
- 5 Points for every radiogram transmitted or received thereafter via voice or digital modes (HF/VHF/UHF).
- 10 Points for every radiogram transmitted or received thereafter using CW.
- 25 **Points for checking into an RRI/NTS manual mode traffic net (required).**
- 2 Point for each routine HF QSO in which a received signal of "R-5" (QRK-5) is received.

All scores must be submitted to Radio Relay International by no later than May 15, 2021. A form is provided with this document for submitting your score.

Contests:

As is the case most weekends, several contests are scheduled. Operators should be prepared to exercise alternate options to avoid possible contest interference.

Please mail the score sheet:

Due to the high volume of e-mail received by Radio Relay International, and because of our limited volunteer staff, we have found that hard-copy submissions are easier to process. We therefore respectfully request that you mail your score sheet rather than using email. The address is:

Radio Relay International
C/O Emergency Preparedness Services, LLC
PO Box 43
Niles, MI. 49120

**Radio Relay International
First Quarter 2021 Emergency Communications Exercise
Score Sheet**

Individual or Organization Name: _____

Address (1): _____

Address (2): _____

City: _____ State/Province: _____ Postal Code: _____

Additional Address information (overseas, etc.): _____

Call sign used during exercise: _____

<u>QTY</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Subtotal</u>
_____	10 HF capability set up in field (required)	_____
_____	10 HF QRP (5 watts or less).	_____
_____	5 HF Low Power (6 to 20 watts).	_____
_____	5 Additional VHF/UHF capability is deployed.	_____
_____	10 Renewable energy (solar, wind, etc.).	_____
_____	5 Battery power.	_____
_____	10 Connectivity to a local ARES, REACT, or other EmComm Net.	_____
_____	10 Connectivity to the RRI Digital Traffic Net established.	_____
_____	10 Winlink connectivity established.	_____
_____	10 First radiogram (OPRED) transmitted via HF from field (required).	_____
_____	10 First radiogram <u>received</u> via HF in the field.	_____
_____	5 Each radiogram transmitted or received thereafter voice or digital modes.	_____
_____	10 Each radiogram transmitted or received thereafter using CW.	_____
_____	25 Points for checking into an RRI/NTS manual mode traffic net (required).	_____
_____	2 Point for each routine HF QSO with received signal of "R-5" (QRK-5).	_____

TOTAL POINTS: _____

Mail completed form to:

Radio Relay International
C/O Emergency Preparedness Services, LLC
ATTN: Exercise Evaluation Team
PO Box 43
Niles, MI. 49120-0043

