

## OPERATION WILDFIRE

After Action Report  
By KI4JTV

Our goal was designed to test the Amateur Radio resources within the county and region; testing equipment capabilities and improving operator skills to pass messages.

The main objective being “preparedness” in the event of disaster or emergency communication., thus an opportunity for all levels of Amateur Radio participants to practice their message handling skills.

The number one comment on all reports was our success is directly related to the level of training. Our “Hotwash” review concluded the same. A recommendation is to incorporate training in future SETs, with the training agenda being explained in the beginning of each. In explaining, that we will correct problems as we go, it will resolve or eliminate stress and frustration. Creating a positive training and learning experience will encourage SET participants to return in the future .

Problems encountered in voice were backlogs in Net recognition caused by too few frequencies being used, too long or wordy messages and often repeats. Solutions recommended were to get prior approval for additional repeater use for more options to pass traffic. It was recommended voice messages be concise and given at the speed of writing.

Digital messages, Winlink, restated our belief in success is directly related to the level of training. The correction for Winlink traffic is knowing the program and practicing. It was suggested having integrated training during the SET develops confidence and successful message handling. Some gateways worked better than others. It was recommended that gateways should be manned to help alleviate overload problems.

It was also recommended to have smaller SETS, having more than one operator per station to share workload or to give relief when needed and having a previously appointed standby Net Control. CERTS should be explored and developed.

Knowing technical mechanics of messaging is part of the success, understanding Net protocol is just as important to traffic moving smoothly. The recommendation is each jurisdiction should develop training to include ICS and NIMS standards and encourage and provide training in all areas and levels.

In summary, we met our goal and passed 224 messages (and still counting). Our main objective is on going. This learning experience leaves us better prepared but with the knowledge that continued training and support develops preparedness.

Thanks to all the dedicated participants that continue in their preparation for disaster and emergency communication and for making this SET a successful one.