Overall After Action Summary
For the Simulated Emergency Test
"EMP"- 2022

I would ask that you review the After-Action-Reports from each jurisdiction. These reports are as varied as the radio operators and locations. You may find these reviews by clicking here. In reviewing the exercise, I feel that it is important to understand that the main purpose of exercises that involve just Amateur Radio and their role in emergency communications is the role of communicators. I have participated in SETs that were tabletop and full-blown exercises. These involved multiple agencies and on occasions, the planned role for Amateur Radio was non-existent. These have value in spite of little or no radio communication during the event. This is very true as far as relationship building between hams and agency people.

The SETs that I have conducted over the past 15 or so years has dealt with the role of communications almost totally. For a fuller experience in preparing for emergency communications, you should seek opportunities to engage in drills that involve multiple agencies. This gives you a well-rounded view of what is happening and understanding roles that you may be called on to support.

I have tried to rotate the impact area around to various parts of the state to give hams the opportunity to work in both a direct role and in a support role. This year the impact area was in northern Virginia and we have few registrations in that area. Those that waited on messages requesting help, received very few. Those outside the impact area, that made know resources they had available did receive and exchange high volumes of traffic.

The rate of traffic in this exercise is much higher than what you find in an activation. It is a test of both operator skills and infrastructure. I have been to a number of disasters but have not handled the volume of traffic that I have passed through my station in drills.

This year we had 585 messages sent and 555 messages received for a total of 1141 messages handled. Over 95% of all messaging was via Winlink and the other 5% was send by voice. Of those that registered, most all operators had Winlink skills. This insured the accurately and speed of delivery of the messages. Prior to the development of Winlink, a messages sent by packet through 3 nodes could take as much as an hour to

delivery. It could set at each node waiting 20 minutes for the relay to the next node.

Thanks to all for your participation,

Glen Sage, N4DN