



Oregon  
ARES/RACES  
Fall SET 2016  
Saturday, November 5  
Start time: TBD  
Duration: 4 hours  
Double, Double



This is a functional exercise to test and assess the capability of the **ENTIRE** Oregon AREA/RACES organization to perform two (2) basic functions: 1) to notify all members that an event is taking place and 2) to work in shifts and properly hand-off control at the changing of shifts. To have an effective test, much of the information that preceded previous sets is intentionally being withheld. The SET is also designed to place greater emphasis on the functioning of the County ARES/RACES units in the center and east of the state.

### *Scenario*

The Cascadia Subduction Zone is not the only hazard in Oregon that may wipe out normal communications. Oregon has 19 volcanoes in the Cascade Range. The United States Geologic Survey closely monitors five of those volcanoes for activity: Mount Hood, Mount Jefferson, Three Sisters, Newberry and Crater Lake. Everyone should remember that on May 18, 1980, Mt. St. Helens (also in the Cascade Range in Washington) had a major eruption; there were subsequent eruptions in 2004 continuing until 2008. Mount Hood last erupted in the 1790s, a few years before Lewis & Clark reached the

Pacific Northwest. On **May 14, 2016**, the USGS reported a swarm of small earthquakes at Mt. Hood, indicating magma flow beneath the mountain. See : [www.wired.com/2016/05/new-earthquake-swarm-rocking-mt-hood/#](http://www.wired.com/2016/05/new-earthquake-swarm-rocking-mt-hood/#).

During the Fall SET, at least one of the Oregon volcanoes will erupt at the beginning of the 4 hours allotted for the exercise.

### *The first DOUBLE: how do we know we are needed?*

Because previous SETs have focused on other aspects of ARES/RACES functionality, such as the ability to set up a communication center on emergency power apart from an EOC, SETs have had a fixed start time. In all of those SETs, all of the information was known beforehand. All members knew what time the ground was shaking, or the aliens were landing, and everyone knew the precise time to get on the air and get set up.

What was missing was a test of a skill set that is rarely if ever practiced, namely HOW in real life does anyone know that we are needed? Granted, if Cascadia slips the ARES/RACES members in Lincoln and in West Lane will know something is up, and will (because of training) turn on the radio to start a resource net. But the ground is not going to shake all the way to Harney or Malheur Counties to let them know. And I doubt that all ARES/RACES members have a radio on 3.964 at all times....

The only possible answer, in an event that doesn't completely destroy phone lines, is through a telephone tree. Because Oregon is so large and geographically diverse, regular telephone communication may only be out in the affected area, but usable elsewhere in the state. Thus the telephone is the only answer for notification if you don't feel the ground shaking or the waters rising as an alert. Thus the focus on the Volcanoes of Oregon. Based on what happened when St. Helens blew, phone lines were operational even in the affected area at the beginning of the event; the disaster continued to escalate as time passed. And since Bruce Bjerke revitalized the District EC program, we have the basis for a telephone notification system:

1. Assume for the start of the exercise that Oregon Office of Emergency Management (OOEM) notifies the SEC of the situation.
2. The SEC telephones the DECs and ASECs.
3. The DECs notify their ECs.
4. The ECs do their phone tree procedure (see below).

5. Whoever is the AEC in charge of the SSB network notifies the OES stations.

In other words, there is no one start time, but each person starts only when notified. By start, that means heads to their respective EOCs or OESs and doing whatever is the next indicated step.

For those unfamiliar with a telephone tree, the procedure is as follows:

- A. Prior to the incident, the EC compiles and distributes a contact list of all members, including a good telephone number. The EC is the first name on the list.
- B. The EC, when called by the DEC, telephones the first name under his/hers on the list. Usually this will be the AEC.
- C. The EC personally calls the second name on the list and tells the nature of the incident. If unable to make contact, a voice mail message is left; however, voice mail is not considered as a contact. If the EC is unable in a reasonable period to personally speak to the second name, he/she continues to the next person on the list and repeats the procedure until a personal contact is made.
- D. Once a personal message has been passed, the person receiving the message then contacts the next person on the list, following the same procedures. This continues until all names on the list have been personally contacted or there are no more names to contact.
- E. At some later time, those members who were not personally notified should be called again in an attempt to make personal contact.

Everyone mentioned above (SEC, ASEC, OES, DEC and EC) needs to keep track of the time that they were notified to include that information in the SITREPs that will be sent (see section below). For tracking purposes, the SITREPs should also include: number of members in the unit, number who were able to be contacted, number who are able to participate, and the time that the last member was notified.

Prerequisites: If not already done, every EC should compile and distribute to all members a current list of member and contact information especially including telephone numbers. If not already done, the SEC needs a similar list of AECs and DEC, and DEC needs a similar list for the ECs in his/her district.

### *The second DOUBLE: Shifts, Hand-offs and SITREPS*

IMPORTANT NOTE: ARES/RACES units do not self-activate. However, common sense should tell you that in the face of a situation that is likely to escalate into a loss-of-communication situation somewhere in the state, there is nothing to prevent ARES/RACES units from mobilizing and standing by.

The county ARES/RACES units should start with a VHF resource net, beginning once the EC has telephoned the first person on the list. This should be followed by assembly at either the EOC or at a location that would be an appropriate refugee shelter, at the election of the EC. Check into the ARES/RACES SSB net as soon as it comes on the air, and continue to monitor & check in for the duration of the exercise.

Unless indicated by a change after the start of the scenario, NO ONE should be sending to OEM any Activation or De-activation forms. What will be expected is an Initial SITREP, to include the information about the notification listed above. The Initial SITREP should include a report on the success or otherwise of the telephone tree.

Regularly check WinLink mail for any additional information from the SEC or Oregon State ARES/RACES ARU. If there are any injects, this is how they will arrive.

Since the main function of the drill is to monitor the situation to see if it escalates, not everyone has to be at the EOC or shelter at all times. The next part of the task is to set up shifts. If possible, the shifts should be composed of two people, and be scheduled to last 1 hour. As the new shift arrives to relieve the present shift, there should be a formal hand-off of authority, including a briefing and a discussion as to the past and current status. The status discussion should cover every item on the SITREP. Once that is done, the new shift will amend the last SITREP to reflect all updated information and send it to the Oregon ARES/RACES ARU. The fourth SITREP will be the final SITREP; once that has been sent, the county unit can stand down.

### After Action Reports

Please report on activities, problems, and challenges overcome; number of participants, station logs, and comments about the SET. An AAR template is being provided (page 5 & 6) to simplify and streamline the submission of reports. Please send them to as soon as is practical after the SET (preferably the same day of the SET), to:

Lisa Clarke, KE7NIY  
OR SEC ARES/RACES  
[LCClarke@hotmail.com](mailto:LCClarke@hotmail.com)

and

Bob Pine, K6RMP  
West Lane ARES/RACES EC  
[K6RMP@yahoo.com](mailto:K6RMP@yahoo.com)

Photos from participating groups are always appreciated. Please send them to John Core at [KX7YT@comcast.net](mailto:KX7YT@comcast.net) for display on [oregonaresraces.org](http://oregonaresraces.org).

# Oregon Section ARES/RACES SET After Action Report (AAR)

## Housekeeping:

Name of SET: Double, Double

Date of SET: 5 November 2016

ARES/RACES unit: \_\_\_\_\_

Unit SET Leader: (Name and unit position) \_\_\_\_\_

Total hours of participation: \_\_\_\_\_

Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Report Submission Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Participation

Number of active (75% participation rate) ARES members in your unit: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of active members who participated in the SET: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of other amateurs who participated in the SET: \_\_\_\_\_

Other organizations who participated in the SET with your unit: \_\_\_\_\_

Did your Emergency Manager / Served Agency participate? Y \_\_\_ N \_\_\_

## Message Traffic

Number of OADN message templates sent via HF: \_\_\_\_\_ via VHF: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of OADN messages received via HF: \_\_\_\_\_ via VHF: \_\_\_\_\_

Overall, rate the value of the SET in helping you to prepare for future activations?

Excellent \_\_\_ Good \_\_\_ Fair \_\_\_ Poor \_\_\_ Useless \_\_\_

What were the 3 best aspects of the SET:

\_\_\_\_\_

What aspects of the SET were of low-value:

\_\_\_\_\_

What should have been included in the SET that was missing?

\_\_\_\_\_

Lessons Learned: (list as many as you like)

Does your plan to correct deficiencies discovered in the lessons learned section include the need for technical assistance or training to help correct the deficiencies? Y \_\_\_ N \_\_\_

ECs personal assessment of unit's performance: \_\_\_\_\_

Do you believe that you met the Section's expectations for the SET? Y \_\_\_ N \_\_\_