

News and Announcements

1) Upcoming Events:

- 6/2 White Mountain/Show Low Hamfest
- 7/5 Bisbee Coaster Race
- 7/6-8 Williams Hamfest

2) Out of Pocket – I will be out of the area for the next few weeks. The SAR Pager will be rotated among several different volunteers for a week at a time. Please respond if you can to any of the callouts since I won't be available to fill any gaps. Charles, K4AFN is first on the roster.

3) APRS Update – Greg Thompson (KC7GNM) has volunteered to provide an APRS update and operations briefing at the June CARA meeting. If you are interested in learning more about the Automatic Position Reporting System (APRS) and how it works, put this on your schedule.

4) La Vuelta Bike Race – First I want to thank all of those who participated in helping to make this event a safe, successful race for another year. Mr. Al Hopper, Race Coordinator, was once again pleased with our support. We had some problems this year with both our digipeater coverage and our voice coverage. We are looking into getting these items fixed. One relates to some changes in the way the APRS protocols have changed and ensuring that everyone with an APRS tracker updates their settings to the current protocol. The second relates to some settings on the 147.02 voice repeater. Hopefully this will get fixed in the next couple weeks as well.

5) Bisbee Coaster Race – Just a reminder that the annual Bisbee Coaster Race will take place on the 4th of July in Bisbee. RB Rice is taking names for volunteers for this annual event. It is a lot of fun so I recommend that you put this on your calendar as well and let RB know if you are available to assist. We typically need 14-15 volunteers to support this event.

6) Benson Safety Day – I am looking for a couple volunteers to take the MCU to Benson to attend the Benson Safety Day. The display is from 10-2 so leaving here at 9:00 should be plenty of time. Please let me know if you can be available to assist in this event.

Training:

Last week I had the privilege of taking the ICS 300 class at the Douglas Fire Department. ICS 300 focuses on management of more severe incidents such as Type III and usually involves a Unified Command Structure. If you are not familiar with the different Type incidents, here is a brief run down.

Incidents are typed from least severe (Type 5) to most severe (Type 1). Management teams are identified the same way. To become certified to work as part of the command staff of Type III incidents and above you must become certified to fill various supervisory positions within the higher echelons of the incident command staff. Most of the incidents that we see are either Type 5 or Type 4. Let's break these down:

Type 5 – Can usually be handled with one or two resources and up to 6 personnel. Incident is usually resolved within a few hours after resources arrive on the scene. Command and Staff positions are seldom activated.

Type 4 – Command and staff may or may not be activated. The incident is usually limited to one operational period in the control phase.

Type 3 – Some or all of the command and staff positions will be activated. The incident usually extends into multiple operational periods. A written Incident Action Plan is prepared for each operational period.

Type 2 – This type of incident usually expands beyond the resources available within the local area. It may require regional and or national resources to effectively control. Operations personnel may expand to 200 per operations period.

Type 1 – This is the most complex, requiring national level resources to effectively manage. Operations personnel often exceed 500 or more per operational period.

If you are not familiar with the term Operational Period, it usually refers to the 8-12 hour period before a shift change occurs. The incident commander will generally designate the standard for the specific incident based on the complexity and level of effort required.

Over the next few nets I would like to cover some of the other highlights of the ICS 300 course and elements of Unified Command. Tonight, the only additional item I wish to cover is the Operational Period Briefing. This is the briefing that is done before the next shift comes on duty. At the Communications Team Level, it should include a recap of key events of the current operational as well as the status of the situation. For example, on a Search and Rescue mission, it should include a quick run down of the mission itself and the status of any teams that are still out conducting operations. Any specific mission objectives that the team should be aware of as well as any communications problems or safety concerns should be relayed as well. Major events will require that this briefing be written. There is an ICS form for this purpose, the ICS 201.

That's it for tonight, Let's go down the roster for comments.

Bob
Robert L Hollister