

RACES Notes for 05/13/2009

News and Announcements

1) Upcoming Events:

- 5/15 - LEPC Meeting, Cochise College
- 5/21 - Ft Huachuca Safety day
- 5/27-29 – ICS 300, Douglas Fire Dept
- 7/4 - Bisbee Coaster Race

2) Ft Huachuca Safety Day – Looking for a MCU co-driver to ride out to the Fort and assist during Safety Day? Any takers?

3) La Vuelta de Bisbee – My thanks to all who participated. Good job for another safe race. Albert Hopper, the primary race organizer continues to say thank you and expresses his gratitude. He has told me more than once he could not put on such an event without our support.

4) State Interoperability Executive Committee (SIEC) – The SIEC is actually a sub committee of the Public Safety Communications Advisory Commission. A few weeks ago I mentioned that I had attend one of the meetings in Phoenix and volunteered to help in this project. The piece I will be involved with is called the Operational Workgroup. Our responsibility is to develop operational standards, processes, MOUs, training, and exercises to further encourage interoperability among all public safety response agencies within Arizona. There is also a Technical Workgroup responsible for developing Performance Measures, Spectrum Management, and the CASM Tool Usage. You may remember that CASM stands for Communication Assets Survey and Mapping Tool. The CASM is a tool which will be helpful when planning responses to different type incidents. More on this and the work as the project continues.

5) Communications Leader (COM-L) – On Monday I sent out a flier for the ICS-300 (Incident Command System - Intermediate) course identifying it a pre-requisite for the COML course tentatively scheduled for 9/30-10/2 in Sierra Vista. The All-Hazards Type III Communications Unit Leader (COML) class is available to provide NIMS-compliant COML instruction to ensure that every jurisdiction has trained personnel capable of coordinating on-scene emergency communications during a multi-jurisdictional response. This course trains emergency responders on how to serve as radio communications unit leaders during all-hazards emergency operations. This training will significantly improve communications across the multiple disciplines and jurisdictions responding to an incident. COML training will qualify emergency responders as lead radio communications coordinators. COML responsibilities include developing plans for the effective use of incident communications equipment and facilities, managing the distribution of communications equipment to incident personnel, and coordinating the installation and testing of communications equipment. As RACES operators and team leaders working with the County Mobile Communications Unit the skills learned in the COML course will enhance our overall ability to respond to major incidents. The list of Prerequisites candidates must possess to receive a certificate for course completion includes:

- A public safety communications background with exposure to field operations.

- Fundamental public safety communications technology, supervisory, and personnel management skills.
- Knowledge of local communications systems; frequencies and spectrums; local topography; local, regional and state communications plans and resources. Each participant should be familiar with the Tactical Interoperable Communications Plan (TICP) and/or their state/regional/local communications plan and communications assets.
- Completion of the ICS100, ICS200, ICS300, IS700 and IS800b.

If you are unable to take the ICS-300 at this time, a makeup session is tentatively scheduled immediately preceding the COML class. Over the next few months we will continue to cover some of the background information you may need to assist you to meet the other pre-requisites. The ICS 100, 200, IS 700, and IS 800 can all be done on line. The ICS 300 and COM-L classes must be taken in a classroom environment.

Training: Tonight will be a short refresher on the Incident Scale. Incident response is categorized according to incident magnitude and complexity. The type of response operation needed for an incident is determined by the level of resources required to address the incident as well as its duration (e.g. one hour, several hours, days, or even weeks). As the most complex incident, a Type I response necessitates a multi-discipline, multi-jurisdiction response for a significant duration such as large-scale natural disaster. As the least complex, a Type V response requires limited resources and time such as a small fire and usually only involves a single agency or jurisdiction. A Type III event includes:

- Activation of some or all the Command and General Staff positions, as well as Division/Group Supervisors and or Unit Leader-level positions.
- A Type III Incident Management Team (IMT) or incident command organization managing initial action incident with a significant number of resources, an extended-attack incident until containment, or an expanding incident until transition to a Type I or Type II team.
- Extension into multiple operational periods.
- Typically, a written Incident Action Plan (IAP) for each operational period. You may remember that the Planning Section within the IC structure is responsible for developing the IAP for larger scale incidents such as Type I, II, or III.

Fortunately we normally only get involved or respond to Type V or maybe a Type IV incident. The last Type III incident we were involved with was probably the Cave Rescue on Fort Huachuca with many jurisdictions and agencies involved. The Highway 80 Propane Tanker incident was probably still only a Type IV incident. Most of our SAR missions would be categorized as Type V but occasionally escalates to Type IV as multiple agencies/jurisdictions get called in to assist.

I hope I am not drowning you all with new acronyms and concepts as we continue to develop our skills and abilities to respond to larger and more complex incidents. I also recognize that not all of you aspire to be Team Leaders. However, you still need to be aware of the protocols and procedures we need to follow during these complex incidents.

That's it for training tonight, now let's go down the net for questions and/or comments.

Bob

Robert L Hollister

Thought for the day:

"The ache of grief is always there, but the emptiness will lift one day. Their life to us the greatest gift, and only by living can it be repaid."

Jill Pendley