Student Activities

Section 2 (Topics 5-13)

NOTE: These activities are for student review only and are not required to be submitted.

Topic 5

1. Looking at the following exchanges, tell how you might revise the language to make them more clear and concise.

    a. "KA1XYZ at Ramapo Base, this is Bob, K2ABC, at Weston EOC calling."
    b. "K2ABC, this is KA1XYZ. Hi, Bob. This is Ramapo Base, Harry at the mic. Go ahead. K2ABC from KA1XYZ."
    c. "KA1XYZ, this is K2ABC returning. Hi, Harry. I have a message for you. By the way, remember to call me later about the get-together the club is having next month. Are you ready to copy the message? KA1XYZ, this is K2ABC, over to you, Harry."

2. Based upon what you have read in this lesson, list five common errors to avoid when communicating during an emergency.

Topic 6a

1. Outline a net plan for a possible disaster in your own area. Describe the types of nets you would include and the links between them.

2. Monitor three HF or VHF/UHF traffic nets. Identify each net by category. If you do not have a receiver capable of monitoring such nets, contact your local ARES group or Amateur Radio club – a member may be able to let you listen to a few nets at their station.

Topic 6b

1. Describe the various types of emergency nets and how they are used.

2. Find a local emergency net in your area and listen in.

Topic 6c

1. What are the major topics found in ARRL's FSD-218?

2. Many nets open and close their sessions with a standard script. Listen in on your local net and describe the language of the opening and closing script used.

Topic 6d

1. Understand the FCC's ruling on drills and employees. Describe how this ruling may apply to you.

Topic 7

1. Participate in a formal net as a member. Review the performance of the net control stations. List five positive features and any negative features of net operation that you encountered. If you do not have the capability to check into a net yourself, listen to nets on VHF/UHF or HF and review their operations and the effectiveness of the NCS operators.

   While net frequencies or times change, see the ARRL Net Directory book or go to the ARRL Web site at http://www.arrl.org/arrl-net-directory to find the latest known information about major nets.
   - U.S. Coast Guard Amateur Radio Net 14.300 or 14.327 MHz
   - International Assistance and Traffic Net: 14.303 MHz
   - East Coast Amateur Radio Service Net: ECARS, 7.255 MHz (SSB)
     South Coast Amateur Radio Service Net: SCARS, 7.251 MHz (SSB)

     Midwest Amateur Radio Service Net: MIDCARS, 7.258 MHz (SSB)

   - Mobile Emergency and County Hunters Net, Primary: 14.336 (SSB), 14.0565 MHz (CW); Secondary: 7.188 MHz (SSB), 7.0565 (CW)

   If you do not have a receiver capable of monitoring such nets, contact your local ARES group or Amateur Radio club – a member may be able to let you listen to a few nets at their station.

Topic 8

1. Develop your own set of guidelines for operating the ideal net. These guidelines should show what you imagine to be the best way to operate. Monitor two or more nets if you can and compare each net's performance with your guidelines. Alternatively, describe efficient and effective communications techniques that you observe being used in a well-run DX operation or a contest.

2. Formal nets have both opening and closing scripts. Develop outlines for both an opening and closing script.

3. Develop a method that works for you so that you can have immediate access to critical phone numbers, e-mail addresses, and other contact information for local served agencies, police, fire, section officials, and others who you might need to contact in a hurry while still working a net.

Topic 9

1. Describe the importance and functions of the Net Manager.

2. Imagine that you have just been appointed the NM for a Section-wide ARES tactical net. Your mission is to provide an HF link between local FM nets and the State EOC. Create a simple plan to accomplish this and list the tasks you would need to complete in order to be successful. Describe the different considerations you would face if this were to be a recurring net.

Topic 10

1. Imagine that you have just been appointed the NCS for an inter-district American Red Cross net following a major flood. Evacuation centers have been set up in several locations in your city and others nearby. Your mission is to see that four shelters are staffed, on frequency, and will form a net to provide coverage between the local chapter and the four shelters. For this scenario, the use of a repeater for optimum coverage may be needed. Develop a simple plan to accomplish this and list the tasks you would need to complete to be successful; provide the proper information and relay needed by the partner you are serving. How would you handle lists of clients? What if there were proper names to be transferred from shelters to the chapter headquarters?

Topic 11

1. Determine if there are any weather nets operating in your state. For any such nets, and the Hurricane Watch Net, list the details of operation including:

    - Sponsoring or partners
    - Qualifications for participating in the net
    - Next scheduled training event
    - Key contact personnel
    - Frequencies employed
    - Procedure(s) for activating the net

2. Suppose that you are placed in charge of training SKYWARN participants in your area. What information would be critical for your participants to know?

Topic 12

1. Name six ways that Social media can be used in emergency or disaster communications.
2. Describe which social media you have used. Which social media would you find useful in emergency or disaster activities?

Topic 13

1. Consider your own personal radio resources. Of the modes mentioned in this lesson, describe which one(s) you would consider acquiring for your own use. Why? Which one(s) would you not consider acquiring? Why not?

2. Select three of the digital modes. Identify the positive and negative aspects of using each of the three in an emergency communications situation and describe.

3. Based on the considerations you have identified above, develop a simple communication equipment plan for a small emergency communications unit based in a small community. Within your plan, be sure to identify and discuss the equipment and modes you would employ.

4. Describe how the plan you developed above would be different if your emergency communications group were quite large and located in a large community.