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## LWRA QRP & Tailgate Tech – August 30, 2025

### Theme: Emergency Communications

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**Introduction:** The Lake Wales Radio Amateurs practice setting up amateur radio stations each month to practice their readiness to operate in the field should the need arise. By performing these operations on a regular basis, radio amateurs experience issues that can arise, adjust their checklists, and hone their skills so they can be setup quickly, efficiently, and make contacts around the world.

Radio amateurs must also work in tandem with other, served agencies, and the public, to assist them when emergencies arise. So, not only does the LWRA practice setting up their own stations, periodically, they work with others to practice sending emergency messages, weather events to the National Weather Service, and communications for other served agencies.

For the August 2025 QRP, the theme will be emergency communications, where we will invite Polk ARES served agencies such as CERT, SKYWARN®, as well as the GMRS (General Mobile Radio Service) community to improve emergency communications capabilities for the citizens of Polk County, Florida.

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**Overview:** The emergency communications theme is designed to introduce emergency communications to not only amateur radio operators (including ARES members), but also to Community Emergency Response Teams, as well as the General Mobile Radio Service (GMRS) community.

This is NOT a full-scale drill or formal exercise, but a communications event to simultaneously occur with the LWRA QRP to give exposure to the general public on GMRS, CERT teams who would like to participate, as well as radio amateurs who may have not had any prior experience with emergency communications.

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**Exercise Type:** This is a limited exercise that will resemble a tabletop exercise with pre-compiled scenarios and communication exchanges. They will be assigned by those parties who have communicated their desire to participate in advance. Those wishing to participate will receive a communication before the event of the scenario and exchange that has been assigned to them.

Being this is a short exercise, with the main part of the communications set to take place between 09:30 and 11:00 AM, it will be important to work through these scenarios in an organized fashion. Doing so, will provide those who are listening to hear how exchanges take place, and what types of information are expected during an actual emergency.

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**Exercise Location(s):** The main locations involved in this limited exercise will be the LWRA QRP site at Mary Holland Park in Bartow, as well as a radio operator at the Polk County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) in Winter Haven, where a Polk ARES dual-licensed operator will be stationed. Other remote locations throughout the county will be involved for those CERT or other groups that have elected to participate, and they will use radio communications from their respective locations.

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**Exercise Frequencies and Call Signs:** The following repeaters/frequencies will be monitored by the EOC and the LWRA QRP site and used for this limited exercise.

**Amateur Radio** – Amateur Radio operators will use the WC4PEM linked repeater system.

**WC4PEM FM Linked Repeater System\***

Frequency	Offset	PL Tone	Location
146.985	- Negative	127.3	Dundee, FL
444.950	+Positive	127.3	Frostproof (S Polk County)
444.625	+Positive	127.3	Interstate 4 & US27 (NE Polk County)
443.900	+Positive	127.3	Kathleen, FL

**GMRS** – General Mobile Radio Service operators will use the **Polk CERT** repeater that is on **GMRS channel 22** which is **462.725** MHz with a PL tone of **141.3**.

\* Should either of these systems be unavailable during the limited exercise, alternatives will be chosen and communicated. These won't be chosen in advance as it will provide an opportunity for the limited exercise to change and adapt.

**Call Signs:** We will use the tactical call sign of **EOC** when responding to calls on amateur radio and GMRS. For identification on the WC4PEM system we will use **WC4PEM**. For GMRS, we will use our personal call signs.

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**Participation Registration:** There will be some assignments in advance of participation, however, any stations that would like to participate in on-the-air communications, will be able to in the final phase of this limited exercise between 10:30 and 11:00

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**Scenarios:** The following scenarios were created to provide exposure to some of the emergency communications that radio operators could possibly experience in Polk County.

#	Scenario Time	Scenario Type	Scenario	Response by	Assigned to
<b>09:25 AM – Preamble</b> – to be read on both the <b>WC4PEM repeater system</b> , as well as <b>Polk County CERT repeater</b> :					
Good Morning, this is _____. This morning, we will be conducting a limited exercise on the _____ repeater system. This exercise is designed to introduce those who may not have much experience with emergency and/or <b>SKYWARN®</b> communications as a GMRS operator, a CERT team member using either GMRS or Amateur Radio, or as an Amateur Radio operator.					
Before we begin, is there any emergency or priority traffic. Any emergency or priority traffic please come now.					

Every five minutes or so, from 09:30 until 10:30, we will be using some pre-created scenarios, some that have been assigned to individuals, some assigned to specific CERT teams, and some that will be dynamically assigned at the LWRA QRP site at Mary Holland Park in Bartow.

We also have one or two representatives from the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) assigned to the Polk County Emergency Operations Center located in Winter Haven, just as they would be if this was an actual emergency.

Once we are done with the pre-created scenarios at 10:30 and have provided some examples of what the dialogue between the reporting station and Net Control look like, we will then solicit any reports that you may come up with and like to try.

Amateur Radio operators have been exposed to these types of communications for some time, but this also gives our CERT teams who may be using GMRS, or any other GMRS operators out there to participate.

For the past 17 months, GMRS operators have been checking into a Tuesday night net and have been told that during an emergency, or perhaps a **SKYWARN®** net, could find themselves calling a report into a **SKYWARN®** Net Control station, or perhaps to someone who may be at the Polk County Emergency Operations Center. This net is designed to provide some examples and to give you an opportunity to participate, check your equipment, and be sure that you are ready to participate should the need arise.

So, relax, this is an exercise, one that is designed to provide examples and then solicit your own custom scenarios at the end. Have fun with it, learn, and participate. The only way to learn is to try, and that's all we ask during this exercise.

Once again, the on the air portion of this event will be from 09:30-11:00, with the communications from 09:30 until 10:30 using pre-created scenarios. At 10:30, the Net Control Station will solicit for any reports that anyone else who would like to participate can provide. All reports will be logged by the Net Control Station. These logs will be reviewed for learning purposes with people at ARES, CERT, and the GMRS community.

Periodically, it will be in the best interest of everyone in our Polk County volunteer communications community to have on-the-air events like this.

At 09:30 we will begin with our pre-created scenarios. Of course, at any time during this limited exercise, if there is an actual emergency or priority traffic, please break into this net and provide your emergency or priority traffic.

This is \_\_\_\_\_ and I will be the Net Control Station here at the Polk County Emergency Operations Center in Winter Haven.

1	09:30	SKYWARN®	Using the TEL method, contact the EOC (either via Amateur Radio) or by GMRS.	EOC radio operator.  Acknowledge report and	*** Christine to choose someone at the QRP location for
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			<p>Report the following: <b>Net Control, this is _____.</b> <b>This is an exercise; this is an exercise.</b></p> <p><b>At 09:30 I have 3/4" hail at the corner of Mary Holland Park Rd. &amp; S. Broadway Ave. This is _____ back to Net Control.</b></p>	respond that their report has been received and will be communicated to NWS.	this scenario ***
2	09:35	CERT	<p>CERT Battalion 1 reporting that they have assembled and are at Kathleen Fire Station 23 and are available for assignment.</p> <p>Report the following on the Polk CERT GMRS repeater: <b>Net Control, this is _____.</b> <b>This is an exercise; this is an exercise.</b></p> <p><b>This is CERT Battalion 1 reporting that we have assembled at Kathleen Fire Station 23 and are available for an assignment.</b></p>	<p>EOC radio operator using GMRS.</p> <p>Acknowledge report and respond that their information has been logged. Inform them they will be called if any follow-up instructions are received.</p>	Polk County CERT Battalion 1
	09:36		The same scenario #2 will be used, for <b>Lake Ashton CERT</b> and report that they are assembled at <b>Lake Ashton</b>	Same as above for #2	Jim Carlin will respond for <b>Lake Ashton CERT.</b>
	09:37		The same scenario #2 will be used, for <b>Battalion #4 CERT</b> and report that they are assembled at <b>Lake Ashton</b>	Same as above for #2	Gene Smith will respond for <b>Battalion 4 CERT</b>
3	09:40	SKYWARN®	<p>Using the TEL method, contact the EOC (either via Amateur Radio) or by GMRS.</p> <p>Report the following: <b>Net Control, this is _____.</b> <b>This is an exercise; this is an exercise.</b></p> <p><b>At 09:50 I see a tornado</b></p>	<p>EOC radio operator.</p> <p>Acknowledge report and respond that their report has been received and will be communicated to NWS.</p>	*** Christine to choose someone at the QRP location for this scenario ***

			located about 2 and a 1/2 miles west of 80 foot road & Alturas Babson Cutoff road.		
4	09:45	SKYWARN®	<p>Using the TEL method, contact the EOC (either via Amateur Radio) or by GMRS.</p> <p>Report the following: <b>Net Control, this is _____.</b> <b>This is an exercise, this is an exercise.</b></p> <p><b>At 10:00 I am reporting that we have experienced over 2" of rain in one hour. We currently have had 2.5" of rain in the past hour and rain is still occurring.</b></p>	<p>EOC radio operator.</p> <p>Acknowledge report and respond that their report has been received and will be communicated to NWS.</p>	<p>*** Christine to choose someone at the QRP location for this scenario ***</p>
5	09:50	CERT	<p>This is an exercise; this is an exercise: The EOC will contact CERT Battalion 1 and follow up with their communication from 09:40 that they are assembled at Kathleen Fire Station 23. EOC will ask for a count of those CERT members that are assembled. Battalion 1 will respond with the number assembled.</p>	<p>EOC will respond with a confirmation of the number and will tell Battalion 1 to stand by for further instructions</p>	<p>EOC and Battalion 1</p>
	09:52		<p>The same scenario #5 will be used for <b>Lake Ashton CERT</b></p>	<p>Same as above but for <b>Lake Ashton CERT</b></p>	<p>Jim Carlin will respond for <b>Lake Ashton CERT</b></p>
	09:53		<p>The same scenario #5 will be used for <b>Battalion CERT</b></p>	<p>Same as above but for <b>Battalion 4 CERT</b></p>	<p>Gene Smith will respond for <b>Battalion 4 CERT</b></p>
6	09:55	SKYWARN®	<p>Using the TEL method, contact the EOC (either via Amateur Radio) or by GMRS.</p> <p>Report the following: <b>Net Control, this is _____.</b> <b>This is an exercise; this is</b></p>	<p>EOC radio operator.</p> <p>Acknowledge report and respond that their report has been received</p>	<p>*** To be assigned by Christine at the QRP site for this scenario ***</p>

			<p>an exercise.</p> <p><b>At 10:20 I am reporting that that strong winds have hit Bartow Executive Airport at Cessna St. &amp; US-17. There are numerous buildings damaged, and trees uprooted.</b></p>	<p>and will be communicated to NWS.</p> <p>Follow up with the station and ask if they believe there are any injuries.</p>	
7	10:00	SKYWARN®	<p>Using the TEL method, contact the EOC (either via Amateur Radio) or by GMRS.</p> <p>Report the following: <b>Net Control, this is _____.</b> <b>This is an exercise, this is an exercise.</b></p> <p><b>At 10:30 I am reporting a tornado that has struck the Teco Power Station on 37 just south of 630. All power in the area nearby is out. I am unsure as to the extent of the outage.</b></p>	<p>EOC radio operator.</p> <p>Acknowledge report and respond that their report has been received and will be communicated to NWS.</p> <p>Follow up with the station and ask if they believe there are any injuries.</p>	Assigned to John W4JFS
8	10:05	MISC	<p>GMRS operator, not with a CERT team, to call in an individual issue.</p> <p>Report the following: <b>Net Control, this is _____.</b> <b>This is an exercise; this is an exercise.</b></p> <p><b>I am at the Walmart in Bartow at 17 and 98. There is a large riot going on and I can see looting.</b></p>	<p>EOC radio operator.</p> <p>Ask follow up questions such as approx. how many involved and do you see any police on scene.</p> <p>Accept response back and let station know you will let authorities know,</p>	*** Christine to assign someone from the QRP site for this scenario ***
9	10:10	SKYWARN®	<p>Amateur Radio not associated with a CERT team, to call in an individual issue.</p>	<p>EOC radio operator.</p> <p>Acknowledge</p>	Assigned to Cheryl N4CAD



			<p>Report the following: <b>Net Control, this is _____.</b> <b>This is an exercise; this is an exercise.</b></p> <p><b>At 10:50 I am reporting a funnel cloud located approximately 2 miles northeast of Lakeland Linder Airport.</b></p>	<p>report and respond that their report has been received and will be communicated to NWS.</p>	
10	10:15	MISC	<p>GMRS preferred but can use Amateur Radio to call in this missing person during a hurricane evacuation.</p> <p>Report the following: <b>Net Control, this is _____.</b> <b>This is an exercise; this is an exercise.</b></p> <p><b>I am at the evacuation center at 2025 Polk Street, north entrance, in Lakeland. We have had a seven-year-old male child missing for over 20 minutes and are looking for search assistance.</b></p>	<p>EOC radio operator.</p> <p>Ask follow up questions such as approx. how many involved and do you see any police on scene.</p> <p>Accept response back and let station know you will let authorities know,</p>	<p>*** Christine to assign someone at the QRP site for this scenario ***</p>
11	10:20	ICS-213 Message requesting supplies to the Teneroc High School Special Needs Shelter	<p>Amateur Radio or GMRS not associated with a CERT team, to call in an individual issue.</p> <p>Report the following: <b>Net Control, this is _____.</b> <b>This is an exercise; this is an exercise.</b></p> <p><b>Please copy ICS-213 form information.</b></p>	<p>EOC radio operator.</p> <p>Acknowledge report and respond that their report has been received and will be communicated to Supply Operations.</p>	<p>*** To be assigned by Christine at the QRP site for this scenario ***</p>

			<p><b>Incident Name: Hurricane Gonzalo</b></p> <p><b>To: Supply Operations</b></p> <p><b>From: Joe Smith at the Special Needs shelter at Teneroc High School</b></p> <p><b>Subject: Bottled Water</b></p> <p><b>Date: 30 AUG</b></p> <p><b>Time: 10:20 AM</b></p> <p><b>Message: We need bottled water ASAP. Our supplies are almost exhausted.</b></p> <p><b>This is _____ and this is an exercise, back to Net Control</b></p>	<p>Net Control will state that they will approve, sign and send the ICS-213 on immediately.</p>	
12	10:25	SKYWARN®	<p>Amateur Radio or GMRS not associated with a CERT team, to call in an individual issue.</p> <p>Report the following: <b>Net Control, this is _____.</b> <b>This is an exercise; this is an exercise.</b></p> <p><b>At 10:25 we have a large oak tree that has fallen across Parkview Drive between Walnut and Chestnut streets, just east of Lake Morton. Wires are tangled and wrapped around two vehicles with four people trapped.</b></p>	<p>EOC radio operator.</p> <p>Acknowledge report and respond that their report has been received and will be communicated to emergency personnel.</p> <p>Also, their weather information has been passed on to the National Weather Service.</p>	<p>*** To be assigned by Christine at the QRP site for this scenario ***</p>
END	*** This is the end of the pre-created scenarios ***				
<p><b>10:27 – Net Control Station Announcement</b> – This is _____ and I am the Net Control for today’s limited Emcomm/ SKYWARN® exercise. In a few moments, we will be looking for participation from anyone who may be listening and not at the LWRA QRP site at Mary Holland</p>					



Park in Bartow.

So, if you would like to participate, whether with a TEL (Time/Effect/Location) method report, or with an ICS-213 message, or perhaps a message where you are reporting an urgent or emergency, then this will be your time.

Please make sure you preface your report with “this is an exercise.” This helps identify that we are NOT in an emergency and lets those who may not have been listening know that you’re not reporting an actual emergency but are participating in an emergency exercise.

This is \_\_\_\_\_ and I am the net control for this exercise. I will call out shortly looking for anyone else that would like to participate in this limited exercise so please standby.

**11:00 – NCS to announce end of the limited exercise** – This is \_\_\_\_\_ announcing that we will be ending our limited exercise. We hope that these examples and participation in this limited exercise have helped provide some better understandings on the types of communications that could occur during an actual emergency.

Don’t forget the TEL method for your SKYWARN® reports. And, if you are reporting during a SKYWARN® net, remember the criteria for reporting.

- Hail of any size
- Measured wind speeds of GREATER than 50 mph
- Damage caused by high winds
- Measured rainfall rates of 2” or more per hour
- Significant flooding
- Rotating wall clouds, funnel clouds, waterspouts or tornadoes
- And any damage or injuries that are weather related

The Lake Wales Radio Amateurs and Polk County ARES appreciate the participation of everyone involved, including our served agencies like CERT, and our GMRS communications volunteers.

We would also like to thank Polk County Emergency Management for use of the Emergency Operations Center as well as the repeater systems used during this limited exercise.

Thank you for your participation, this is \_\_\_\_\_ returning this repeater system back to normal operations.

<b>Polk County ARES Communications Log</b>				
Event: _____		Date: ____ / ____ / ____		Page ____ of ____
Operational Period: _____		ARS Call: _____		GMRS Call: _____
Time	From	To	A / G	Subject/MSG/Summary

\*\* For any communications specified using the ICS-213 form, please note that an ICS-213 was used and the subject for that communication

## GENERAL MESSAGE (ICS 213)

1. Incident Name (Optional):		
2. To (Name and Position):		
3. From (Name and Position):		
4. Subject:	5. Date:	6. Time
7. Message:		
8. Approved by: Name: _____ Signature: _____ Position/Title: _____		
9. Reply:		
10. Replied by: Name: _____ Position/Title: _____ Signature: _____		
ICS 213	Date/Time: _____	