Michigan - 2009 Simulated Emergency Test

This Document is prepared in advance of the simulated emergency test for the state of Michigan. This document describes the expectations, the objectives of the test, the scenario, skills expected to be exercised, and the basic framework for the test. After reading this document, see your DEC or EC for further instruction.

EXPECTATIONS

The expectation for this test is is that we will "test our muscles" as communicators. We drill because we believe that practice makes perfect, and perfection is never obtained without practice. We drill because effective communication requires effective relationships, which can only be built by working with served agencies across many events.

We drill to demonstrate where we are strong and where we need to focus future efforts. A successful drill highlights our weaknesses and our strengths and prepares us for the future.

OBJECTIVES

Our focus in this year's SET will be to demonstrate our capability to provide communications county to county under severe weather conditions. For this exercise we will assume that the management of local resources will require each county to establish communications with outlying counties, and that normal communication lines have been disrupted (including state 800 MHz communications).

Amateurs are to make contacts for the SET relying solely upon simplex communications for this exercise. The mode used is left to the discretion of local resources. However, all communications within the confines of the simulated emergency test should be using simplex operations. Amateurs are encouraged to use Emergency Power wherever possible.

The state SEOC will be activated for this exercise and will expect reports from participating counties summarizing the number of successful contacts made within and outside of each county using simplex transmissions. Participating counties are expected to activate local EOCs and establish simplex contacts with as many served agencies as practical with resources available.

Legitimate contacts will be any in county or out of county simplex contacts made. Border counties are expected to include contacts made with counties across state lines wherever possible. Each county will summarize and report to the SEOC the total number of contacts made in two categories: In County and Out of County. Reports should also include the Mode (Phone, CW, Packet, etc.). An additional report on the percentage of contacts made with Emergency Power would be appreciated. It is expected that traffic will be directed through VHF and HF NTS nets wherever possible. Please find an example of a typical report at the end of this document.

SCENARIO

Michigan and states in the upper Midwest and Canada have been engulfed in a major winter storm comparable to those seen in the late 70s and late 90s. Over the past two days, a cold front moving in from Canada has brought freezing rain followed by snow to the southeast corner of Michigan and high wind and bitter cold to the upper Peninsula. This scenario begins in day three of the winter storm and finds the resources within the state severely taxed by the conditions resulting from the first two days of the storm. Predictions for the winter storm track for day four of the storm have yet to be finalized by the National Weather Service.

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Conditions in the state have been broken into six weather zones describing uniform conditions within each zone. See the attached maps of the upper and lower Peninsula to find the six zones which have resulted from the first two days of the storm.

Conditions within each zone are described as follows:
Weather zone 3 - the southeast corner of the lower Peninsula has seen freezing rain followed by deep snow. As a result, roadways are slick and dangerous and ice accumulation has resulted in downed power lines, poles, and trees. Zone 3 is susceptible to flooding in River basin areas. This zone has experienced the greatest number of power outages, with over 350,000 customers without power. Counties in Indiana and Ohio have suffered similar conditions and are requesting support from Michigan counties.

Weather zone 2 - The lower portion of Central Michigan escaped the thick layer of ice suffered in zone one and is in relatively good condition with only 10 inches of snow and temperatures in the low 20s. This portion of Michigan is doing business as usual, supporting other counties in other zones where possible, and focusing on snow removal.

Weather zone 1 - the upper portion of Central Michigan also escaped freezing rain and has seen only 6 inches of snow recently deposited on the ground. Unfortunately, temperatures are dropping and the winds are steady at 25 mph, making driving hazardous. The area is bracing for the conditions currently in zone 4, expected to move into zone 1 in the next few hours.

Weather zone 4 - the northern tip of the lower Peninsula finds itself with 6 inches of snow on the ground and in a high wind condition, with winds at 70 mph and temperatures dropping into the low teens. Under these blizzard conditions, major roadways have been shut down and shelter in place strategies are being pursued. Cell phone services are down and not expected to be revived for another 2 days.

Weather zone 5 - the lower portion of the upper Peninsula finds itself in near whiteout conditions and temperatures in the low teens. While wind speeds are lower than in zone 4, zone 5 has recently been exposed to these conditions and is recovering from 70 mph winds.

Weather zone 6 - the northern half of the upper Peninsula is resting at temperatures near zero with winds gusting to 25 mph. Winds are expected to die down within the next 24 hours. Much like zone 5, zone 6 has seen severe winds and is recovering.

SET FRAMEWORK
The opening of the SET will begin at 9:15 am on 10/3/09. The state SEOC will be activated at this time and DECs or their designates will notify participating EC's/counties of the start of the SET and distribute this document as appropriate.

A resource / organizational net will be called at 9:45 at 3.932 MHz to begin organizing resources to respond to the SET. This should include plans for VHF and HF NTS net operations to support the SET, and plans for funneling traffic to the NTS from Emergency Districts and individual counties as appropriate.
All communications and traffic handling should be completed no later than 1pm.

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All portions of Michigan Displayed with 6" of snow minimum

Weather Zone 4, Temps in low Teens (F) with winds 70 mph

Weather Zone 5, Temps in low Teens (F) with winds 45 mph

Weather Zone 6, Temps at 0F with winds at 25 mph

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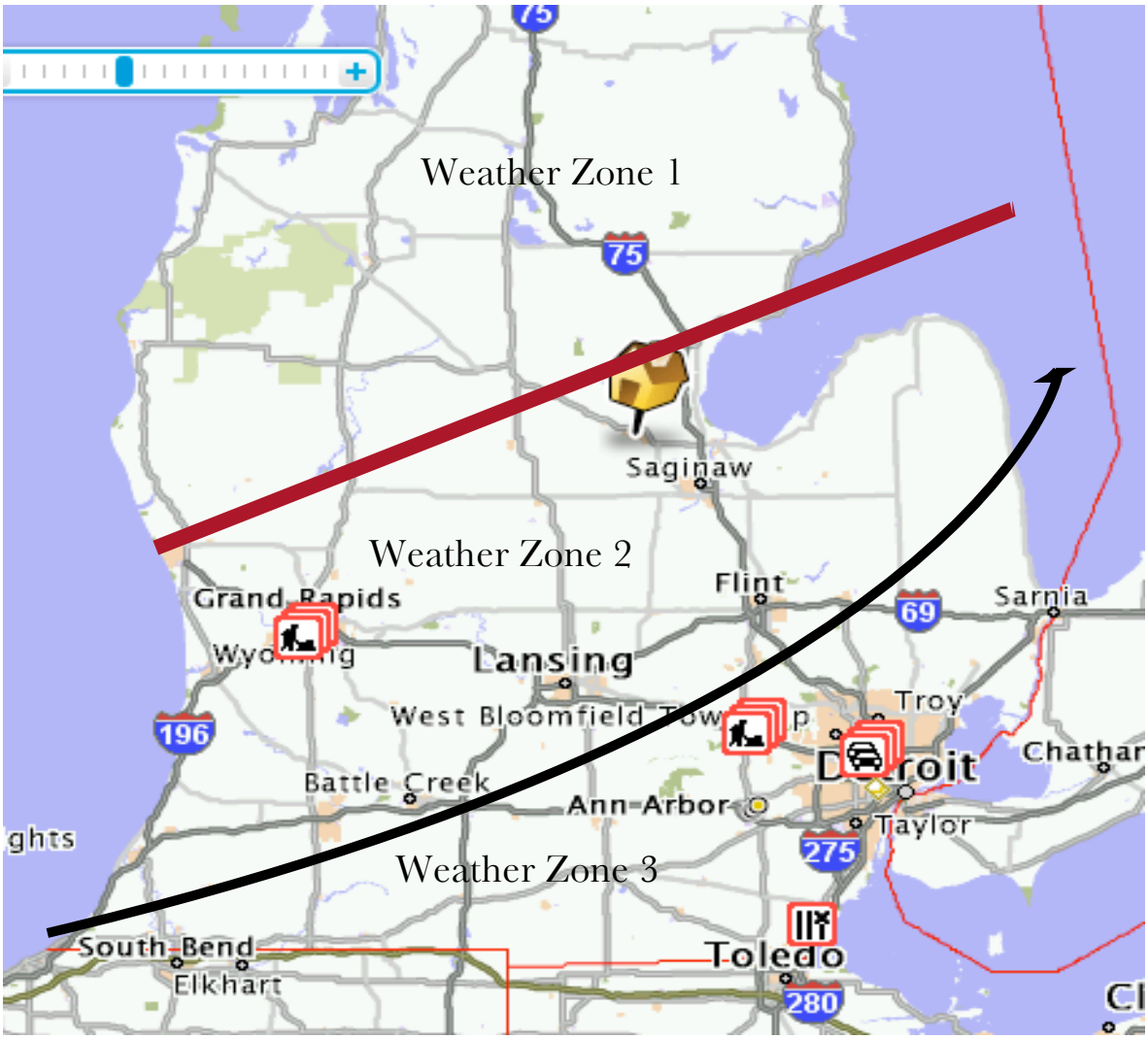
Weather Zone 1 - 6 inches of snow min in all locations
Temperatures in low 20s (F)
Winds steady 25 mph
Weather Zone 2 - 10" snow base with Temps in low 20s (F)
Winds gusting to 25 mph
Weather Zone 3 - Base is 1" of ice covered by 12" to 14" of snow
Winds gusting to 15 mph



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Example Report for SEOC (body only)

If Midland County has 15 contacts in county by voice, 11 contacts outside of the county using voice, 4 contacts within the county using CW, 6 contacts outside of the county using CW, 13 contacts using packet inside the county and 15 contacts outside the county using packet, and if 30 contacts out of the 64 (47%) are made using emergency power, then the body of their report would look like this:

Midland X 15 In Voice X 11 Out Voice X 4 In CW X 6 Out CW X 13 In Packet X 15 Out Packet X 47% Emergency Power

ODDS and ENDS
Please feel free to send comments about this exercise on its completion to:
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