

Palm Beach County District ARES

Emergency Communications Traffic Nets

A Guide To Traffic Nets &

Tactical & Formal Traffic Handling

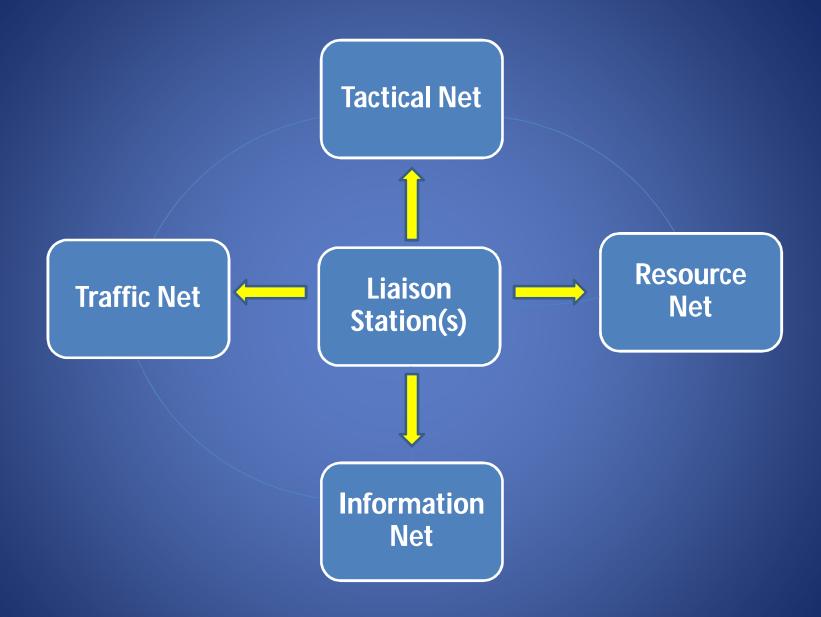
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During a ARES event, the EmComm amateur radio operator will operate on a radio net to provide communications for a served agency. This net may be a:

- Traffic Net Passes formal traffic
- Tactical Net Passes real time event traffic Informal / Tactical
- Resource Net- Acquire resources and volunteers and handles assignments
- Information Net- Open net used to collect or share information on a developing situation i.e. Skywarn activation during event

There may be only one Emergency Net required to handle all traffic found in above nets. They may be activated based on * NIMS Alert Levels

* National Inter-agency Incident Management System III Stand-By, II Partial, I Full





Activation

Upon activation, you should monitor the net(s) as you report to your assigned site for real time up-dates.

Unless otherwise directed, or you have relevant or emergency traffic, there is no need to check into the net until you have reported to your site or if directed, a designated staging area. This will only tie up the net.

In some events, you may be directed to report to a "Staging Area" and instructed to check into a "Resource Net" if one has been activated.

If not, monitor ARES frequencies found in your PBCDARES ICS-205.

Checking In

Upon checking in to the net from your site, check in with your site assigned tactical call followed by your FCC assigned call. "Lake Shore Middle"...." WX4PBC"

In two-way traffic, ID with Tactical Call and then FCC call every 10 min's of conversation and at end of traffic.

If you are an ARES member and do not have an assignment you should monitor net and wait until NCS asks for Check-Ins.

If you are not part of ARES you should not check in unless ARES or the served agency is taking volunteers.

Logging ICS-309

COMMUNICATIONS				FOR OPERATIONAL	PERIOD:	3. TACTICAL I.D.			
LOG				1. START DATE/TIME:	2. END DATE/TIME:				
4. INCIDENT NAME				5. LOCATION:					
DATE / TIME PREPARED (finalized and submitted)				7. OPERATOR SIGNATURE:					
8. OPERATOR CALL SIGN:				9. OPERATOR <u>PRINTED</u> NAME:					
				MESSAGE AND ACTION LOG					
10. TIME 11. STATION			I.D.						
(local)	FROM	<u>or</u>	то	12. SUBJECT / INFO					

You will need to keep a log of all radio traffic you send or receive. This is to be logged on the ICS-309 Radio Log.

- Log is used to document your stations radio traffic.
 This log must be legible and should be in ink.
- Maintain a separate log for each station operator.

Logging Tips

Time (10): Use local 24 hour format for local events and UTC time if sending out of your time zone.

Station ID (11): Fill the corresponding From / To box for the station sending or receiving other than your station. In above log, only the "Other" station box is filled.

The open box denotes your stations activity. If you sent a message, leave From blank. If you received a message, leave To blank.

	COMMUNICATIONS LOG			FOR OPERATIONAL PERIOD: 1. START DATE/TIME: 2. END DATE/TIME:	3. TACTICAL I.D.		
				1. START DATE/TIME: 2. END DATE/TIME: Lake Shore Middle May/18/13 1300 May/18/13 1600			
	4. INCIDENT	name ane Firebal	A CONTRACTOR OF THE PARTY OF TH	5. LOCATION: Lake Shore Middle (Red Cross Shelter) Belle Glade			
		Mar/19/1		7. OPERATOR SIGNATURE: Bill & Bob			
	8. OPERATOR CALL SIGN: WX4PBC			9. OPERATOR PRINTED NAME: BIII E.Bob			
				MESSAGE AND ACTION LOG			
	10. TIME 11. STATION I.D.						
	(local)	FROM	or TO	12. SUBJECT	/ INFO		
Outbound ——	> 1340 CDOC			Mesg#1 Shelterwatersupply low			
	1348	CDOC		Reply Mesg #1 Water delivery	at1900		
	1402		PB Cent	TI Do you have a David Crocket	t checked in / Negitive		
Inbound ———	1448	CDOC		AA4BBBMesq#19 Have Red	Cross Sally Helpercallin		
	1510		CDOC	Reply2AA4BBBMesg#19 uni	able to deliver-not assigned		
	1600 NCS		NCS	Checked out of Net. Station Shut Down			
				T= Informal Mesa = 213 21			
WX4PBC Mar 8 2013	Total:			213-1/ 213 Replys-1/ Tactical-	1/Open-0 (No Mesa Holding)		

Maintaining a log is:

- Required by PBDARES
- Documented record for: historical record, message authenticity and possible liability issues

A formal message generates a written receipt (the message form) where as a tactical message in and of itself does not.

- All sent and received messages must be logged by the amateur radio operator on the ICS-309 Radio Log.
- Thus, the ICS 309 Radio Log is a message handling receipt.

Formal Traffic vs. Tactical Traffic

Formal Traffic consists of the multi-part PBCDARES "Radio Message" whereas "Tactical Traffic" consists of verbal or written traffic not in a formal or specific format.

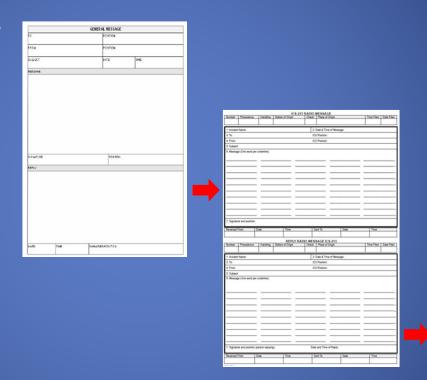
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Incident reports are public documents!

Formal Written Messages For "Record" Communications

USE A FORMAL MESSAGE FOR:

- Station activation & closure
- Damage assessments
- Shelter and EOC status
- Situation updates
- Declarations
- Resource Requests
- ICS facility relocations



Other Traffic as required by ARES or Served Agencies



Formal Traffic:

- Written in a specific format, i.e. PBDARES ICS- 213 Radio Message
- Will have two or more parties handing the message before reaching the recipient
- Guarantees high degree of accuracy and validation via receipt

Formal Traffic:

- Is slower and more time consuming than informal and tactical messaging
- Served Agencies may find formal traffic procedures intimidating and time consuming
- Formal messages are not needed for most EmComm message handling.

Tactical Traffic

Tactical Traffic consists of brief verbal or informal written messages, intended for direct and immediate delivery.

- Urgent matters of public safety and life-saving
- Direct conversations between third parties via radio traffic net
- Relaying direct third party traffic with parties present at stations

Tactical Traffic

- Faster message and information handling
- More end-user friendly
- More radio operator friendly
- Minimum Training

Log ALL Formal & Tactical Radio Traffic on ICS-309

Tactical Traffic is best suited for:

- Non-critical and simple messages
- Messages that require immediate action such as critical public safety or life saving
- Messages delivered directly from the author to the recipient via radio traffic net
- Station to station communications

Tactical Call Signs

Emergency communications use tactical call signs as primary identifiers. Using tactical call signs allows for:

- Quick identification of EmComm stations be they a fixed location or mobile
- Net operators to contact another EmComm station without needing to know the station operators amateur radio call sign
- Identifying which station / location message traffic needs to be delivered

Using Tactical Call Signs

IT's The Law

- Station operators will identify their station or "site" by assigned tactical call sign.
- Station operators will end conversation with their FCC amateur radio call sign and every 10 minutes during a radio conversation.

As FCC Licensed operator, you will be held responsible !!!

Traffic Handing Etiquette

- Be Accurate Accuracy is job #1
- Be Brief fewest words to "pass" the message
- Speak slowly and clearly Receiving station is listening and writing
- Use Phonetic Alphabet when spelling words
- Use proper established pro-words Don't use "Slang"
- Don't assume receiving station can spell the word
- Keep accurate records For event and historical records
- Don't hesitate to ask for Fills to maintain accuracy

Accuracy is job #1

PRO-SIGNS, PRO-WORDS, PHONETICS

It cannot be stressed enough the importance of using these indicators properly while sending traffic, especially on phone.

On repeaters the use of phonetics is usually not needed as often, except on difficult words or names.

Proper use of pro-words, pro-signs and phonetics will make sending and receiving a message effortless, thus, keeping the flow of the net in a timely fashion.

Passing Tactical / Informal Traffic

Passing tactical/informal traffic via the net is similar as to passing formal traffic.

The difference would be tactical /informal traffic is short and not passed from or onto a ICS-213 Radio Message Form

Log all Tactical Traffic on your station ICS-309 Radio Log



On a net, you would call the NCS with your assigned "Tactical" Call sign or ID. State you have traffic (Type of traffic & destination).

NCS will recognize you and instruct you to call your destination station and pass your traffic.

At the completion of your traffic, the sending station will advise NCS they have passed their traffic and sign with their FCC assigned call sign.

This returns the net to the NCS

If you have an emergency and net is quite, call NCS with your tactical call sign and state you have an emergency.

If net is busy, you will call <u>"BREAK"</u> which will give you the frequency.

Then advise NCS you have an emergency.

Example:

Lake Shore Middle: "Lake Shore Middle, Net Control Over":

Net Control: "Lake Shore Middle, This is Net Control Over"

Lake Shore Middle: I have 1 Informal For CDOC Over:

Net Control: Lake Shore Middle Call CDOC And Pass Your Traffic Over"

Lake Shore Middle: Lake Shore Middle CDOC copy 1 informal Over"

CDOC: CDOC Ready To Copy Over"

Lake Shore Middle: "Message To Follow (Send Short or Urgent "Tactical" Message) (When Done, Finish with) "End Message No More Over"

CDOC: Message Received KJ4YZE *

Lake Shore Middle: Net Control, Message has been passed WX4PBC

Pro-Words

Say again

Repeat

All after

Fill request

All before

Fill request

Between

Fill request

Word after

Fill request

Word before

Fill request

End of message No more text

Pro-Words

No more Nothing more to follow

More to follow More messages to follow

Over Did you copy my last?

Roger Copied you last completely

Confirm Let me double check what I copied

Wait or standby Stop Tx / wait one

Correction Sending correct text / information

Fill Requests

Fill requests (Pro-Words) are used by receiving station to have sending station resend information.

Use pro-word that describes where you need to "Fill" in the requested information

Ex: 1234???? 10 11 12 You would request "Need Fill Between figures 4 and figures 10, Over"

Pro-Words

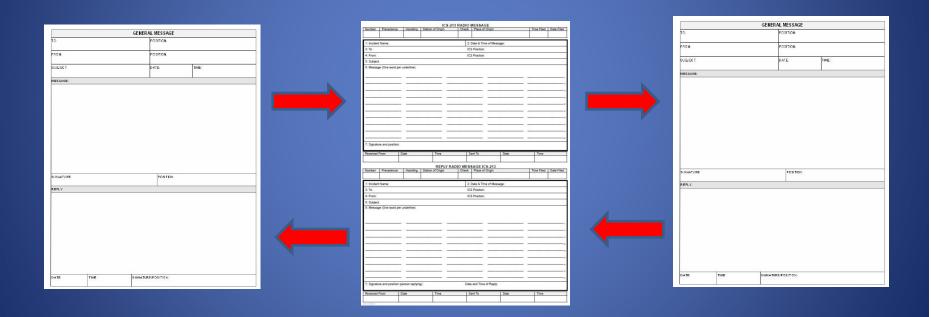
You will find it necessary to use more than one of these at a time in many situations, especially when asking for fills.

(Example)

- Say Again Word After ______. Fill request to complete message.
- I Spell _____. Let receiving station know phonetics to follow.
- End of Message, No More, Over Used by sending station to advise no further traffic to be sent.

Formal Traffic Handling

ICS-213 & PBDARES ICS-213 Radio Message



Message Copy

1 R WX4PBC 23 St Rays Hospital 0815 Oct 12 Line 1 Preamble
Operation Dumbo Drop Oct 11 Line 2 Header / Address
John Q Citizen EOC Transportation Line 3 Header / Address
John E Doe St Rays Hospital Line 4 Header / Address
Patient Transfer Line 5 Header / Address
"BREAK"

We will need to transport 7 BLS patients and 3 ALS patients to Goods Hospital today. We will need transport for same Message Body "BREAK"

John E Doe <u>Signature</u>

<u>"END OF MESSAGE NO MORE"</u>

Check is 23 word Groups

ARES Role

ARES communications is committed to accuracy, for the benefit of the served agency.

ARES role in emergency communications is to pass traffic / information at the request of the Served Agencies. This allows served agencies to provide services to the community in time of crisis.

ARES volunteers carry out this task using trained communications procedures developed to provide accurate reliable emergency communications.

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ARES volunteers carry out this task using trained communications procedures developed to provide accurate reliable emergency communications.

Standardized radio Format

- Recognized format
- Aids in accuracy
- Brevity
- "CW of EmComm traffic

Message Copy

By using a standard format, traffic handlers will be able to send and receive messages quickly and accurately and with or with out an ICS 213 Form

This format is a modified National Traffic System format and will give you the basics of Traffic Handing in amateur radio.

Practice sending and receiving traffic. Make a message and complete ICS-213 And ICS-213 radiogram

What is "Formal" event traffic? Traffic in need of a liability receipt

- Sit Reps
- Personnel request
- Equipment procurement
- Public Safety

- Health and Welfare
- Served agency requested "Formal Traffic"

Most traffic will be informal traffic such as:

- House Keeping
- Checking into out of the net
- Station site status (Non-Public Safety related)
- Station to station communications

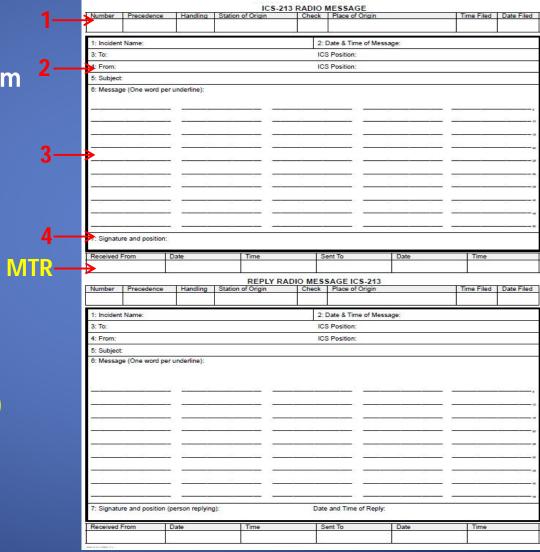
ICS 213 Radiogram

- PBCDARES ICS 213 Radiogram
- PBCDARES ICS 213 Reply
- Modified ARRL NTS Format

4 Part Radiogram

- 1 Preamble
- 2 Address
- 3 Message Body
- 4 Signature

Message Tracking Record(MTR)



	ICS-213 RADIO MESSAGE										
Number	Precedence	Handling	Station of Origin	Check	Place of Origin	Time Filed	Date Filed				
1	2										

1 Number: Transmitting station sequential message handling number

Start with 1 (not 01) for first message you send as "Station of Origin" or original "Station of Origin" of a Reply message

	ICS-213 RADIO MESSAGE										
Number	Precedence	Handling	Station of Origin	Check	Place of Origin	Time Filed	Date Filed				
1	2										

2 Precedence: Priority level of message to be sent

Emergency-Life and death critical. Sent as "Emergency"

If emergency, send "Emergency" skipping Preamble

Priority - Urgent but not life threating.Health & Welfare Red Cross uses DWIRoutine - Normal formal traffic.

Sent as "**P**"
Sent as "**W**"
Sent as "**R**"

	ICS-213 RADIO MESSAGE											
Number	Precedence	Handling	Station of Origin	Check	Place of Origin	Time Filed	Date Filed					
		3	4									

- 3 Handling: Normally not used in ARES ICS 213 format traffic handling Used in ARRL NTS traffic handling format. (NTS traffic nets) Used by Red Cross / Salvation Army Nets (NTS format)
- 4 Station of Origin: Amateur Call of 1st operator to receive and send enter message into the radio traffic net



5 Check: Number of words (word groups) in message body including each period.

This check allows the receiving station to confirm they received complete message as the received word count matches the sent check number.



If word sent count / check number does not match the received word count / check number, receiving station will ask for a "Fill":

- repeat full message
- fill between or before or after the word receive station knows is correct.

	ICS-213 RADIO MESSAGE										
Number	Precedence	Handling	Station of Origin	Check	Place of Origin	Time Filed	Date Filed				
				5							

If discrepancy can not be cleared up, receiving station will relay / pass traffic as they received it and note in preamble "Check" both counts

- May also be added as "OP Note" after message body but before "Break"
- Sent as: Op Note Check 15/14
- This indicates you received a "Check" of <u>15</u> but you can only show
 <u>14 Check periods (X-ray) and question marks (Query)</u>

	ICS-213 RADIO MESSAGE										
Number	Precedence	Handling	Station of Origin	Check	Place of Origin	Time Filed	Date Filed				
					6						

6 Place of Origin: This will be the location the message was written which may be different as to the Station of Origin. In local event, location may be listed using event ICS Position.

Example 1: Station WX4PBC is located at EOA1 and message originated by EOA1 CERT Leader located at the EOA1 site. Place of Origin would be "EOA1 Belle Glade"

Example 2: Station WX4PBC is located at EOA1 and message originated by EOA1 CERT Leader located in Lake Harbor, Place of Origin would be Lake Harbor FI.

	ICS-213 RADIO MESSAGE										
Number	Precedence	Handling	Station of Origin	Check	Place of Origin	Time Filed	Date Filed				
						7	8				

7 Time: Time message given to radio to send.
Use local 24 hour format.

B Date: The date is required to be sent on every message for tracking / record keeping.

Use Abbreviated month and day. Ex OCT 12

Address Header



- 1 Incident Name: Set by served agency or Net Control
- **2 Date & Time of Message:** Date & Time original message written.
- 3 To / ICS Position: Name of recipient. Optional Middle initial to aid in identity ICS title / department or section mandatory.
- **4 From / ICS Position:** Name of message originator. Optional Middle initial to aid in identity. ICS title / department or section mandatory.

Address Header



5 Subject: Set by message originator.

If station operator is originator, enter subject as short description of message content.

Few if any messages will be originated by radio operator

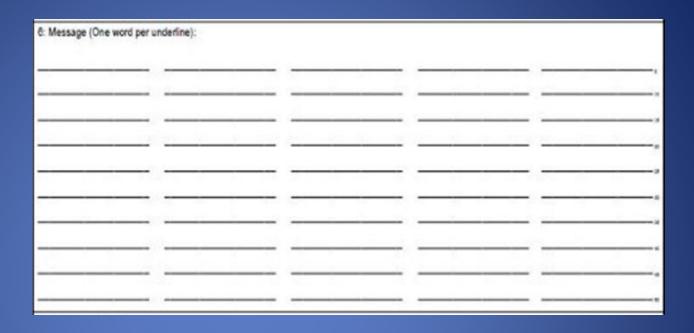
Signature

7: Signature and position:

Signature and Position:

Name of originating message writer must match the name and ICS position on the ICS-213 and From: section in address / header.

This signature is the authority to send the message via the traffic net



Message: Formatted radiogram with each word known as a "Group" on each underline for total of 5 words per line with 50 total words/groups



There are single word groups and mixed groups such as

- letters & figures Ex: Yaesu FT897D

- phone figures Ex: 555-555-0005

- zip figures Ex: 32234

Message: Identify if one word or multi-word for word count for Preamble "Check"

Ex: Yaesu FT897 would be 2 word groups.
Yaesu 1 word and FT897 1 mix group word
FT897 is mixed group as FT are initials and 897 are figures

Ex: 561 555 0005 is 3 groups of "phone figures" for word/group count of 3

Periods and question marks are signed as

- "X" or "X-ray" for period
- "Query" for question mark-(optional)

Each x-ray and query are counted as 1 word/group each for total word/group count.

Do not use period(X-Ray) at end of message unless a salutation follows. Ex: 73, Tnks, Thank You......

Sending a Radiogram

The #1 rule in traffic handling is: "The 4 B's"*

- Be Accurate- Get the complete message sent*
- Be Brief- Be accurate with as few words as possible
- Be Articulate* Send only as fast as someone can copy by hand
- Be Consistent*- Send each message in same format each time

If you have to pick only one "B" when all else fails, be Accurate

^{*} wx4pbc addition to the NTS #1 Rule

The Radio Message

Take the message and convert it to a radiogram

- Preamble
- Address / Header
- Message Body
- Message Tracking Record (MTR)

Message Tracking Record (MTR)

Sending Original Message

Received From	Date	Time	Sent To	Date	Time
John E Doe (R)	10/12/2012	0800	EOC KJ4YZE	10/12/2012	0815

Enter who you received message from and who you passed it to via radio or in person

Received From Preamble, you can add what the precedence was for your records

The record indicates you received message via <u>John E Doe</u> and you then passed the traffic to EOC station KJ4YZE via the traffic net.

Message Tracking Record

Relay Station

Sending Relayed Message

Received From	Date	Time	Sent To	Date	Time
W9WWW (R)	10/12/2012	0800	EOC WA5AA	10/12/2012	0815

The record indicates you received message from W9WWW via traffic net and you then passed the traffic to either destination station or another relay station WA5AA via the traffic net.

Received From header, you can add what the precedence was for your records.

Message Tracking Record

You must keep good records during event and for historical purposes for:

- Clarification
- Authenticity
- Debriefing

Liability

Sending Reply Preamble

	REPLY RADIO MESSAGE ICS-213										
Number	Precedence	Handling	Station of Origin	Check	Place of Origin	Time Filed	Date Filed				
4	R		KJ4YZE	19	EOC W. Palm	* 0900	Oct 12				

If your station is destination station of message, you may be required to send a reply.

You will complete the reply Preamble as Station of Origin with your sequential message handling number.

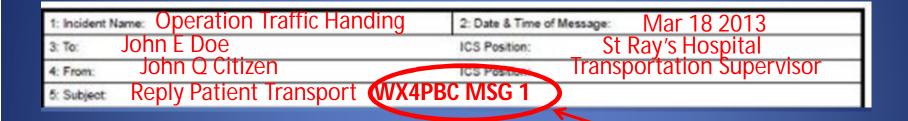
Ex. If you sent 3 original messages and now sending your 1st reply message, this reply message would be your 4th sent message.

Sending Reply Preamble

	REPLY RADIO MESSAGE ICS-213										
Number	Number Precedence Handling Station of Origin Check Place of Origin Time Filed Date Filed										
4	R		KJ4YZE	19	EOC W. Palm	* 0900	Oct 12				

If you are passing traffic as a relay station, you would pass the Preamble you received. You would not send as original message for a number count.

Sending Reply



The Subject Line contains the addition of the Radio Call and message number of the original message to allow the receiving station to match the reply to the original message.

Operator Tips

- Caution should be used on FM repeaters with audio delay systems or multi-site key-up delays.
- On these systems you must access the repeater and wait for up to a second or two before your audio will be available to the receiving station. Groups may be cut off at the beginning of your transmission.
- If interference or static is present, or you make a copying mistake, mark the groups or parts of words which might be in error (underline or highlight).
- If the sending station is "listening between groups" interrupt with the group or segment.

Operator Tips

- The sender will repeat. Otherwise, mark (underline, circle, etc.) groups you are not sure about as you go along.
- You can ask for "fills" formally after the "break" at the start of the text or at the end of the message.
- Accept only messages in which content and purpose comply with the FCC regulations in force regarding third party traffic, the prohibition of "business" traffic, encryption, and other rules regarding prohibited communications.
- You are the licensee held responsible by the FCC.



Conclusion

1D R WX4PBC 10 EOC West Palm 2045L* Jul 21

PBCARES Central Meeting Jul 21 2045L*

ARES Members PBC EmComm

Ray R Ruby WX4PBC Asst Coordinator EOA1

ICS 213 Voice Traffic Handling Review

Thanks For Listening Tonight X Hope review was helpful X

73

L* optional on 24 hr. time to denote "Local 24hr not UTC Time (Use local 24hr. Format in ICS 213 Messaging if sent local Use UTC (Z) if sending message out of local time zone.



"End of Message No More..... Over"

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References

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