

Afternoon All,

Please pass this along to your teams and clubs. Let's get the word out and show that the Ohio Section is ready for an emergency response.

This is from Matt KD8TTE and asked that I pass it along.

The power of amateur radio for providing communications when other options are unavailable is often sold with the promise that in an emergency, "hams come out of the woodwork." Among the professional responders, there are doubters who say that hams won't follow instructions and can't be relied on to perform a specified task. Are they right?

We have an opportunity to show that amateur radio operators can be reliably tasked to perform specific communication functions with a demonstration of performing a single task by as many operators as possible. Emergency response officials of the State of Ohio will be paying a visit to the Major General Loren G. Windom (W8GZ) Memorial Radio Room at Haubrich Armory in west Columbus in early August.

As I wrote in the 24 July issue of PostScript, I'm looking to get a report from as many amateur operators in and around Ohio as possible, in the form of a FIELDSITREP for a one-time demonstration. Can you help to ensure that we get a realistic reading of what kind of force is waiting in the wings if called by a state agency? We're not looking for a response from each EC, or just from every county: we want as many different stations to report as possible. Can we average five per county? Ten? Can we show that there is an entire system of communications volunteers able to perform a function when needed? Will the Tuesday HF net carry the announcement? Will OHDEN? Will ARES district and county nets?

This is not a free-form or general request: it is information in a specific format that may be transmitted by voice or print (digitally). Participants can even use email. Responses will be compiled so we can show officials what the map of participating stations looks like, visually representing both coverage and force strength. We need reports no later than 4 August, and I hope that every ARES and AUXCOMM volunteer in the state can help.

Participation is easy, fun, and helps to develop and maintain critical emergency communications skills. Many stations will already have taken care of at least one of the three steps involved.

1. **Install the FLMSG application.** You need this to organize the information, even if you are not going to transmit it digitally. FLMSG is available for MacOS, Windows, and Linux systems. <https://sourceforge.net/projects/fldigi/files/flmsg/>
2. **Install the FIELDSITREP Custom Form.** You can get the FIELDSITREP Custom Form. Find the ZIP file with the form at <https://www.blackswancomex.org/net/fieldsitrep>. If you need help installing a custom form, you can get step by step instructions online. <https://groups.io/g/QTC/message/987>
3. **Send your FIELDSITREP.** Step by step instructions are available online. <https://groups.io/g/QTC/message/938> Address your FIELDSITREP to KD8TTE. You can send via BLACK SWAN Net or Winlink. If you do not have either option you may use Internet email addressed to KD8TTE@Winlink.org, with the subject: / /WL2K P/ FIELDSITREP.

Please let me know if you have any questions. Thank you for supporting the security and resilience of your communities and the State of Ohio.

<https://twitter.com/kd8tte>

<https://www.youtube.com/KD8TTE>

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“Prepared Teams, makes for smaller Disasters”

"When the disaster is at its worst, communications should be at its best."