

## WTX Section S.E.T. 20251011

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The West Texas Section (WTX) of the ARRL consists of 6 districts extending from the top of the Texas panhandle through the Big Bend area and from Abilene to El Paso, encompassing approximately 111,000 square miles and approximately 550 miles across at the greatest distance. The potential hazards and disasters within the section are unique to the districts and the likelihood of a section wide level event is extremely remote.

In a section such as the WTX, it is desirable to know our communication capabilities and extents across the section. Should an event occur that would cut off normal means of communication or the need to supplement existing communications after an event, it may be necessary to reach out to neighboring districts for mutual aid or to advise of the situation.

The intent of this exercise is to provide an opportunity to test our equipment, our organization and ourselves and to help us prepare for such an event. There is no scenario attached to this exercise. This is purely a communications exercise. What is practiced in this exercise could be utilized for any disaster.

### **Objectives for this SET:**

- Involve as many operators of all license levels as possible, whether or not they are ARES, include RACES members, and any served agencies that are willing.
- Demonstrate our ability to communicate effectively across the section with both voice and data
- Effectively and accurately aggregate ground truth reports
- Convey information in absence of normal or conventional routes and methods

Information (messages) will "funnel upward" from the county EC to the DEC and onward to the SEC and SM. Additionally, each district should send a STAR request to the State Operations Center (SOC) at TDEM in Austin. Utilize local repeaters, simplex or HF nets, and Winlink to gather, compile and forward information. There will be an HF section net at the conclusion of this exercise also. Specific instructions and further details will be provided in the near future.

Counties and districts may if they desire, begin collecting information in advance of the actual exercise or wait till the day of the exercise. Given the busy personal schedules of many section operators, this will allow them to contribute to the exercise as their time allows. It is well known that in West Texas, people may not practice or participate in much, but when trouble comes, they are more than willing to help. It's Texas!

Looking for your participation and 73!

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## WTX S.E.T Exercise October 11, 2025

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This exercise is a communications exercise with no scenario. It is intended to test our equipment and capabilities across the section. This exercise makes use of the SITREP and Customizable Form, both of these forms are found in the Winlink templates. If you do not have Winlink, a blank form of each is included in this package. They may be printed and distributed as needed for use in this exercise.

One of the main objectives in this exercise is to involve as many as possible from Technician through Extra. Through the use of local nets conducted on repeaters, simplex or HF nets, obtain SITREP reports from operators within the county. Information is then sent to the county EC or in lieu of a county EC, to the District EC. The district EC will compile summarized information from the Sitreps and send that report to the SEC and SM. If you are not sure of which District you are in, a map of the section is included.

This exercise can be done in part in advance of the actual exercise date. Solicit the information requested during your local nets for example. Allow participants to gather information during the week as their schedule allows.

- 1) Accumulate data using the Field Situation Report
- 2) Relay data to the county EC or if your county does not have an EC, to someone who will play that role for the purpose of this SET.
- 3) DEC will compile reports onto the Customizable Form then send to the SEC (N5QNS) and SM (W5JDO). If there is no DEC for your district, send the accumulated data to N5QNS.
- 4) Voice HF Net

### **Field Situation Report Instructions**

The Field Situation Report is one that can be of great value in the immediate time after an event. This allows us to get a glimpse of problems that exist.

When relaying the information on the sitrep form, it is not necessary to transmit everything that is working normally. In most cases for this exercise, all will be normal / functioning. If something is noted as less than normal, then that should be the only information conveyed. This will reduce the amount of traffic and offer less chance for errors. In Winlink, this form is located in <STANDARD TEMPLATES> / <GENERAL>.

### **Customizable (Info) Form**

This form is also located in <STANDARD TEMPLATES> / <GENERAL>. It is a 3 column spreadsheet that can be used for many different types of information. Here, we are using it to tabulate the information gathered by the Field Sit Rep. In the PDF copy of the form included in this package, the column headings are already defined. If you use Winlink, please use these headings. Note: The number of characters in the headings & columns are limited.

County / # of Stations: Which county is reporting and how many operators participated

Methods Used: Repeater, Simplex, Local Nets, HF, Winlink ? List what was used to gather the information.

Problems if Any: Note any actual problems reported.

## WTX S.E.T Exercise October 11, 2025

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It seems there is always something scheduled, so it is difficult to find a truly open slot to conduct a test / exercise. The 11th is also a RACES exercise & net that will typically involve a Winlink peer-to-peer element in it. If you wish, my Winlink will be up & listening on 7116.0 (CF) 500Hz Vara P2P beginning at 12:30pm local Central until 3:45pm local Central. You may send your Customizable form to N5QNS in that mode if you wish. Please put WTX SET in the subject line of the message. You may also send your winlink by telnet or RMS.

### **Voice Net**

Given band conditions recently, there is no way to predict for October 11. Also, as previously noted, there is a RACES exercise and net that day. trying to 'shoe-horn' in an ARES net with that, I feel it best to do the HF net on Sunday, October 12, at 2:00pm local central, 7.255 MHz.

### **Closing Thoughts**

One of the goals of this exercise is to simulate what we might do if there were to be a section wide event. Gather information, forward it on and gain a perspective of what has happened and what is needed where.

If you have any questions regarding any of this, reach out to me. I'll be more than happy to help!

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### INFORMATION FORM

**Setup** [Click to add your agency or group](#)

Event or Use Name

Form Creation Date/Time

Description or Form Information

**Load Information Form data** [Form Info](#)

*Create whatever Column Name you want for each category*

#	County / # of Stations	Methods Used	Problems if Any
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			
8			
9			
10			
11			
12			
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30			

Sender's Comments or Additional Information

Attach CSV data file to message?  Yes  No

**Submit**

**Reset Form**

**Save Form data**

**Export data to .csv**

Ver 8.6.6

FIELD SITUATION REPORT

WTX S.E.T. / October 11, 2025

**Setup** [Click to add an agency or group name](#)

[Load Field Situation data](#)

[Form info](#)

*For Non-Express recipients, this form is sent as plain text in the message body. Once this page is submitted No changes or editing of this message are allowed*

PRECEDENCE:  DATE/TIME:  TASK #

FROM:

TO:

INFO (CC):

*Call signs or E-mails entered into the TO or INFO fields above, can be multiples separated by a semicolon ;*

1. Is there an EMERGENT/LIFE SAFETY Need  YES  NO

2. City  County:  State:  Territory:

3. Latitude and longitude: LAT  LON  MGRS  Grid

If your local situation is LIFE CRITICAL, report via 911. If 911 services are not available, a reporter may use this form and mark the block for LIFE CRITICAL; the reporter should describe the situation and provide the residential address.

*LAT and LON are required to map this SpotRep. If entering manually use Decimal Degree format or from an attached GPS device. By default LAT, LON and MGRS to the center of the grid square listed in Express Settings*

4a. POTS landlines functioning?  YES  NO  Unknown - N/A

4b. VOIP landlines functioning?  YES  NO  Unknown - N/A

5a. Cell phone voice calls functioning?  YES  NO  Unknown - N/A

5b. Cell phone texts functioning?  YES  NO  Unknown - N/A

6. AM/FM Broadcast Stations functioning?  YES  NO  Unknown - N/A

7a. OTA TV functioning?  YES  NO  Unknown - N/A

7b. Satellite TV functioning?  YES  NO  Unknown - N/A

7c. Cable TV functioning?  YES  NO  Unknown - N/A

8. Public Water Works functioning?  YES  NO  Unknown - N/A

9a . Commercial Power functioning?  YES  NO  Unknown - N/A

9b . Commercial Power Stable?  YES  NO- Brown outs/blinking lights  Unknown - N/A

9c. Natural Gas Supply functioning?  YES  NO  Unknown - N/A

10. Internet functioning?  YES  NO  Unknown - N/A

11a. NOAA weather radio functioning? <input type="radio"/> YES <input type="radio"/> NO <input checked="" type="radio"/> Unknown - N/A	
<input type="text" value="Identify NOAA Weather Radio Transmitter by frequency, call sign or location."/>	
11b. NOAA weather radio audio degraded? <input type="radio"/> YES <input type="radio"/> NO <input checked="" type="radio"/> Unknown - N/A	
<input type="text" value="Identify NOAA Weather Radio Transmitter by frequency, call sign or location."/>	
12. Additional Comments <i>Brief summary of current situation - expected outage times, major observations, etc.</i>	
<input type="text" value=""/>	
13. POC	<input type="text" value="Point of Contact"/>
<input type="button" value="Submit"/>	<input type="button" value="Save Field Situation data"/> <input type="button" value="Reset Form"/>
Ver 0.2.10	