

Resource Nets

Big events, usually under RACES, are most often run using the Incident Command System. The ICS uses a different form of a standby net. It is called a Resource Net. These nets are always directed. The Resource Net Control Station makes assignments, gives instructions, and directs the flow of available resources. The Resource NCS receives requests for transportation, equipment, supplies and personnel from a front-line Tactical Net, the Command Net, and outside served agencies. A resource net may be needed to acquire volunteers and handle assignments. Resource nets accept check-ins from arriving volunteers who are then directed to contact an appropriate station or to proceed to a specific location.

Tactical Nets

Tactical nets are used for real-time coordination of activities related to the emergency. This is a fast moving often less formal operation. Tactical nets are used after an event has occurred or during and after a lengthy event. They are found on the "front lines" of response, disaster assessment, recovery and Search and Rescue operations. There may be several of these nets running at the same time; on different frequencies and from widespread locations ... all reporting to a "master" Tactical NCS at the EOC.

Command Nets

Command nets are encountered in all large disasters or emergencies. This is a communications net established to keep the top "executive board" of emergency officials informed. They are also used by fire departments and police agencies during smaller, local events. They are run in accordance with the Incident Command System (ICS). It would be rare for amateurs to be involved directly in one of these nets, but fairly common for amateur nets and sub-nets to be reporting certain information to a command net. For now, just be aware that they exist and that they are the guys who are really running the show.

Information Nets

An information net is usually an open net used to collect or share information on a developing situation without overly restricting the use of the frequency by others. The operation of an information net also serves as notice to all stations that a more formal net may be activated at any moment if conditions warrant. A good example is a SkyWarn weather net activated during a severe storm watch.