ARES Training Synopsis: 12-5   2 February 2012

This training information is provided give refresher training to ARES members during the weekly ARES Net activation. Subjects covered are taken from FEMA based emergency management training sources, local established emergency plans, and technical information applicable to amateur radio operations. Specific procedures discussed in this training session are directly applicable to North Central Montana ARES members. For non NCM-ARES members, contact your Emergency Coordinator to determine applicability.

Training Subjects for this net:

1. **HAZMAT Identification (See Attachment)**
2. **ICS Communications**
3. **Scenario Discussion:**

HAZMAT Identification:

THE NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION'S (NFPA's) 704 SYSTEM

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) has devised a voluntary marking system to alert firefighters to the characteristics of hazardous materials stored in stationary tanks and facilities. This system, known as NFPA 704, can also assist citizens visiting a site in identifying the hazard presented by the stored substance. Use of the system is voluntary, unless specified by local codes.

The NFPA 704 label is diamond-shaped, and is divided into four parts, or quadrants. The left quadrant is *blue*, and contains a numerical rating of the substance's health hazard. Ratings are made on a scale of 4 to 0,   with a rating of 4 indicating a severe hazard that a very short exposure could cause serious injury or death. A zero, or no code at all in this quarter, means that no unusual hazard would result from the exposure.

The top quadrant of the NFPA symbol contains the substance's fire hazard rating. As you might expect, this quadrant is *red*. Again, number codes in this quadrant range from 4 to 0, with 3 representing a serious fire hazard. See Figure 2-1.

The NFPA label's right quadrant, colored *yellow*, indicates the substance's likelihood to explode or react. As with the health and fire hazard quadrants, ratings from 4 to 0 are used to indicate the

degree of hazard. If a 2 appears in this section, the chemical is moderately unstable, and even under *NORMAL* conditions may explode or react violently. A zero in this quadrant indicates that the material is considered to be stable even in the event of a fire.

The bottom quadrant is *white*, and contains information about any special hazards that may apply. There are three possible codes for the bottom quarter of the NFPA symbol:
- OXY means this material is an oxidizer. It can easily release oxygen to create or worsen a fire or explosion hazard.

- The symbol W̶ indicates a material that reacts with water to release a gas that is either flammable or hazardous to health. See Figure 2-2.

- If the material is radioactive, the usual tri-blade "propeller" symbol for radioactivity will appear.

It is important to remember that the system is chemical-specific. *No* chemical identification system can accurately assess the synergistic effects of one chemical combining with another, or the possible effects of combining unknown amounts of several chemicals.

Incident Command System (ICS)

- The ICS Is a standardized management tool for meeting the demands of small or large emergency or nonemergency situations. It represents "best practices," and has become the standard for emergency management across the country. ICS may be used for planned events, natural disasters, and acts of terrorism and ss a key feature of the National Incident Management System (NIMS).
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   ## - ICS Communications Overview

Formal communications follow the lines of authority. However, information concerning incident or event can be passed horizontally or vertically within the organization without restriction

■ Formal Communication

Formal communication must be used when:

- Receiving and giving work assignments.
- Requesting support or additional resources.
- Reporting progress of assigned tasks.

Other information concerning the incident or event can be passed horizontally or vertically within the organization without restriction. This is known as informal communication.

■ Informal Communication

Informal communication:

- Is used to exchange incident or event information only.
- Is NOT used for:
    - o Formal requests for additional resources.
    - o Tasking work assignments.

2. **DISCUSSION Scenario: ARES is activated to support a local emergency situation. What form of ICS communications would the following statements be:**

A. A Team leader requesting fuel for his generator.

B. A deployed team member discussing response progress with another team member.

C. The EC telling an arriving ARES member to man a vacant communications position at the medical triage location.

D. The Incident Commander directing the Logistics Section to locate 500 absorbent spill blankets.

References: See FEMA ICS course IS-5a (Intro to HAZMAT) and FEMA ICS 200 (Introduction to ICS)

Attachment: NFPA Identification Chart