



Winter in Minnesota can be described in many ways, but unpredictable isn't one of them. At some point, it will snow and temperatures will drop below zero. There will be ice on the roads. High winds will raise the risk of being outdoors from hazardous to life-threatening.

The best way to avoid the hazards is to stay warm and cozy indoors, but it's tough to stay cooped up for months — and even staying indoors for long periods carries risks. Problems can arise with indoor air, and fire risks increase dramatically in the winter.

Are you ready for it? Do you know how to stay warm, safe and happy all winter? Well, fear not. Surviving — even enjoying — the winter season is not as hard as it looks to the uninitiated. To help Minnesotans and visitors handle winter-weather threats, HSEM, with support from partner agencies, has created the *Winter Hazard Awareness* information campaign.

To help Minnesota residents minimize risks and mitigate the hazards of winter, the Minnesota Department of Public Safety — in collaboration with the National Weather Service and other state, federal and non-profit agencies — sponsors "Winter Hazard Awareness" *cont'd on page 2*

Storm Preparedness

Storms battering the East coast recently provide us with a reminder that mother nature can present us with a challenge. Now is a good time to take an inventory of your radio preparedness as well as your family storm plan.

ARES members who participated in recent public service events have already tested much of their radio gear. Those of you who did not participate need to take the time to round up all those battery packs and chargers. Thinking about power, how about changing the gas in the generator and don't forget to check the oil level and air filter. It is always easier to take of these items with the lights on!

Other items that could benefit from a quick check are antennas, check the SWR, connectors, give the antennas and structures a good visual inspection. Don't forget the little things like: spare power pole connectors, coax connector adapters, dry cell battery adapters for HT's, and computer power back-ups.

When a storm is predicted for the near future, be sure to take care of your family. You cannot be an effective volunteer if your family is not secure. Some points worth considering are: 1) Watch, listen to, or monitor weather service updates on Hurricane Sandy to keep abreast of the latest path and any

Preparedness *cont'd on page 2*

ARES Activities

Weekly Net Monday 7 PM 146.535 mhz (s)

Breakfast Saturday, November 10th

Digital Monday, November 12th

ARES Nets

MN ARES Phone Net	6:00PM Sunday	Freq: 3.568 mhz
ARRL MN Phone Net	12:00p, 4:30p CST Daily	Freq: 3.568 mhz
ARRL MN CW Net	6:30p, 9:50p CST Daily	Freq: 3.568 mhz

NETS WITH OUR NEIGHBORS

North Dakota:	Daily 3.937 mhz	6:30pm
South Dakota:	Daily 3.870 mhz	6:00pm
Wisconsin:	Daily 3.985 mhz	5:30pm
Iowa:	Daily 3.970 mhz	12:30/

The ARES COMMUNICATOR is published for the benefit of Amateur Radio Operators in Scott County and other interested individuals.
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 Reader submissions encouraged!

Winter Hazard Awareness *cont'd from pg. 1*

Hazard Awareness Week” each fall to educate, inform, remind and reinforce the behaviors that lead to a warm, safe and enjoyable winter season.

The event includes a media campaign, literature and other informational materials. The week-long educational campaign targets specific information each day that can be used in conjunction with school, church, or civic programs.

Monday, November 5: Winter Storms

Tuesday, November 6: Outdoor Winter Safety

Wednesday, November 7: Winter Fire Safety

Thursday, November 8: Indoor Winter Safety

Friday, November 9: Winter Driving

You can find more information on the agency’s website:
<https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/hsem/Pages/default.aspx>

BREAK - OVER

Oct. NIMS Knowledge Solution

1. Homeland Security Presidential Directive 5 (HSPD-5) requires all Federal departments and agencies to:

B. Make adoption of NIMS by State, tribal, and local organizations a condition for Federal preparedness assistance (through grants, contracts, and other activities).

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Test Your NIMS Knowledge

This month we will start our review of ICS-700a: National Incident Management System (NIMS) An Introduction. Check your recall of the course material with these questions.

1. Select the statement below that best describes one benefit of NIMS.

A. Establishment of standardized organizational structures that improve integration among jurisdictions and disciplines.

B. Funding for additional staff and other resources to address operations that are not NIMS compliant.

C. Creation of a comprehensive tactical plan for operational incident management that can be used for every incident.

D. Development of comprehensive strategies for addressing the management of international events.

Check next month's ARES Communicator for the solution



Preparedness - *cont'd from page 1*

mandatory evacuations that have been issued.

2) Make sure you have a good supply of water and dry food that can keep you and your family fed for several days. If your power goes out, minimize opening the refrigerator to keep the cold air inside.

3) Have a radio and flashlights available with backup batteries so you can follow recovery efforts.

4) Locate the closest disaster relief center or evacuation site in case you need to leave your home.

5) Keep your cell phone plugged into the charger and use it wisely if the power goes out.

6) Fill your car and extra containers with gas, as power outages and debris could limit gas quantities at gas stations after the storm.

7) Finally, make sure to have all medicine in a go-kit (and a cooler ready for ice in case the power goes out) so you can leave quickly and not put your health at risk.

Being prepared for the worst ensures you don't become an unnecessary burden to first responders and allows them to focus on vulnerable individuals. The American Red Cross and federal government's Ready.gov websites offer good advice and information about disasters, including steps you can take to make your own emergency preparedness kit.

Take some time to be prepared and you will have a less stressful storm!

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USS Minnesota SSN 783

Ship's Christening Oct 27, 2012

October 27th marked the christening of the 10th *Virginia*-class submarine, *Minnesota* (SSN 783), at the Huntington Ingalls Industries' Newport News Shipbuilding (NNS) division.

The ship's sponsor, Ellen Roughead, performed the traditional honor of breaking a bottle of American sparkling wine across the submarine's hull. Roughead, a Minnesota native, is the wife of former Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Gary Roughead.

"*Minnesota* is the sum of all her parts," Mrs. Roughead said. "Everything and everyone who has contributed will be an ingredient in the spirit and the force that makes *Minnesota*. The great shipbuilders of Newport News Shipbuilding and the countless men and women across our country who had a hand in the millions of parts and components that have gone into the ship have given *Minnesota* her backbone, her muscle and her nerves."

Minnesota is the last of the block II *Virginia*-class submarines. The submarine is about 88 percent complete and is on track to complete in 62 months — 11 months ahead of contract schedule. Construction began in February 2008, and the keel was authenticated in May 2011.

The tentative date for the commissioning of MINNESOTA is set for Saturday, August 21, 2013, at the place yet to be determined.

The name *Minnesota* was selected to honor the state's residents and their continued support of the U.S. military. The state is home to 46 Medal of Honor recipients that span from the Civil War to the Vietnam War.



Ship's Sponsor Ellen Roughead performs the traditional honor of breaking a bottle of American sparkling wine across the hull of the submarine *Minnesota* (SSN 783). Also pictured (left to right) are Newport News Shipbuilding President Matt Mulherin and Cmdr. John Fancher, the ship's prospective commanding officer. HII photo.



This picture shows the port side of MINNESOTA looking forward toward its bow which is right at the end of the huge building where she was finally assembled. B.Wefald photo.



About 1,800 people gathered for the christening celebration of *Minnesota* (SSN 783). The submarine is about 88 percent complete and is on track to complete in 62 months — 11 months ahead of contract schedule. HII photo.



The *Minnesota* 'North Star' vision lives in the ship's hull art. B.Wefald photo

SACS Marathon /Fun Run

The annual Marathon for Non-public Education is the largest fund raiser of the year for the Shakopee Area Catholic School. This years' event added a 3K Fun Run to the busy morning's activity. Scot ARES was on the course to provide communications to contribute to a safe fun event for all involved. Scott ARES volunteers included: Tony KC0YHH, Bob W0NFE, John WA0DGW, Jacob KD0PLC, Bob KB0FH, and Dan N0PI.



The NECOS station was moved indoors to provide some shelter from the unseasonably cold wet winds and a break from the noisy festivities of the morning.



The antenna for the NECOS station was a plumber's delight J-pole elevated with a 25 ft pipe tied to a convenient light standard.



The 3K Fun Runners got off to an early start on a cold Saturday morning.

Tony, KC0YHH, filled the NECOS duty for the marathon net. He operated crossband linking his HT to the NECOS dual-band base radio located inside the entry. Crossband operation permitted the freedom to track down marathon officials for information requests from the field.



Walkers, strollers, bikers, and riders all took part in the marathon for non-public education on a Saturday morning in Shakopee.



Take a Dip in the General Pool

Time to test your knowledge of the information covered by the General Class license exam. Each month we'll take a look at a selection from the question pool. Here is this month's sample:

1. Which of the following complies with good amateur practice when choosing a frequency on which to initiate a call?
 - A. Check to see if the channel is assigned to another station
 - B. Identify your station by transmitting your call sign at least 3 times
 - C. Follow the voluntary band plan for the operating mode you intend to use
 - D. All of these choices are correct
2. When may the FCC restrict normal frequency operations of amateur stations participating in RACES?
 - A. When they declare a temporary state of communication emergency
 - B. When they seize your equipment for use in disaster communications
 - C. Only when all amateur stations are instructed to stop transmitting
 - D. When the President's War Emergency Powers have been invoked

(Check next month's issue of the ARES Communicator for the answer.)



October General Pool Answer

1. What is a practical way to avoid harmful interference when selecting a frequency to call CQ on CW or phone?
 - A. Send "QRL?" on CW, followed by your call sign; or, if using phone, ask if the frequency is in use, followed by your call sign
2. What frequency should be used to send a distress call?
 - A. Whatever frequency has the best chance of communicating the distress message
3. Who may be the control operator of an amateur station transmitting in RACES to assist relief operations during a disaster?
 - A. Only a person holding an FCC issued amateur operator license

Thanksgiving Dreamin'

Twas the night of Thanksgiving,
but I just couldn't sleep.
I tried counting backwards,
I tried counting sheep.

The leftovers beckoned -
the dark meat and white,
but I fought the temptation
with all of my might.

Tossing and turning with anticipation,
the thought of a snack became infatuation.
So, I raced to the kitchen, flung open the door,
and gazed at the fridge, full of goodies galore.

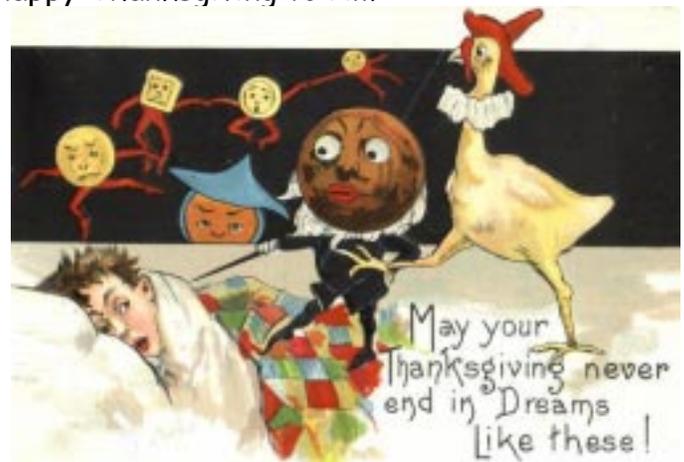
Gobbled up turkey and buttered potatoes,
pickles and carrots, beans and tomatoes.
I felt myself swelling so plump and so round,
'til all of a sudden, I rose off the ground.

I crashed through the ceiling, floating into the sky,
with a mouthful of pudding and a handful of pie.
But, I managed to yell as I soared past the trees...
Happy eating to all - pass the cranberries, please.

May your stuffing be tasty,
may your turkey be plump.
May your potatoes 'n gravy
have nary a lump.

May your yams be delicious.
May your pies take the prize,
may your thanksgiving dinner
stay off of your thighs!!

Happy Thanksgiving to All!



Microphone Techniques

ARES Emergency communications are all about being understood. Well, DUH! Who doesn't know that! To be blunt, many people who think they are emergency communicators.

We seldom have the opportunity to actually hear ourselves as we communicate on the radio. Think about it. Unless you actually make an audio recording of yourself in action you do not know how well you have mastered verbal radio communications. Just a word to the wise, do not attempt this exercise unless you are in an extremely good mood! It can be a sobering event.

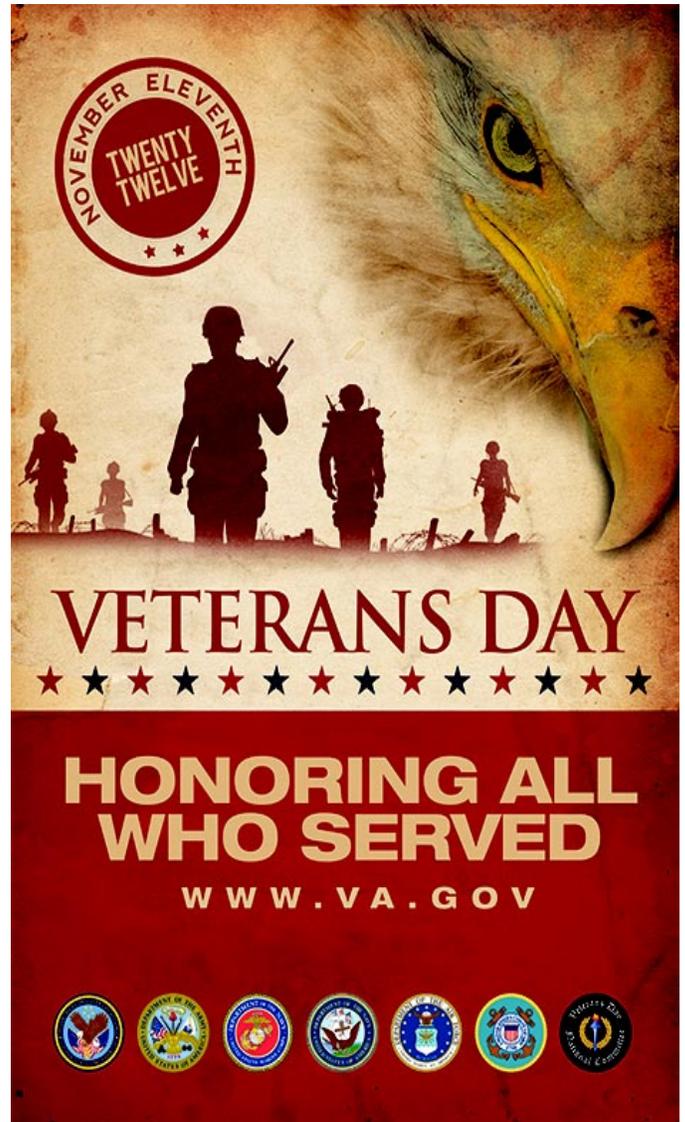
The following is a list of actions we can all take to improve our voice operations. Take a look and see if there aren't a couple of techniques you could use to improve your emergency communications.

- Hold the mic close to your cheek, and just off to the side of your mouth. Talk across, rather than into, the microphone. This will reduce breath noises and "popping" sounds that can mask your speech.
- Speak in a normal, clear, calm voice.
- Speak at a normal pace – rushing your words can result in slurred and unintelligible speech.
- Pronounce words carefully, making sure to enunciate each syllable and sound.
- Radios should be adjusted so that a normal voice within 2 inches of the mic will produce full modulation.
- "Voice operated transmission" (VOX) is not recommended.
- When using a repeater, be sure to leave a little extra time between pressing the push-to-talk switch and speaking.
- Pause a little longer than usual between transmissions any time there is a possibility that other stations may have emergency traffic to pass from time to time.

I'm sure there are a couple of items that you can put to good use the next time you grab the mic.



BREAK - OVER



ARES Breakfast
Saturday November 10th
7:30AM
Perkins Restaurant
Savage, MN

NECOS Schedule November 2012

- | | |
|--------|-------------|
| 5 Nov | KC0YHH Tony |
| 12 Nov | N0PI Dan |
| 19 Nov | W0NFE Bob |
| 26 Nov | KB0FH Bob |
| 3 Dec | KC0YHH Tony |
| 10 Dec | N0PI Dan |
| 17 Dec | W0NFE Bob |
| 24 Dec | KB0FH Bob |
| 31 Dec | KC0YHH Tony |