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Re: [R1emcor] Covid-19 pandemic and emergency communications [Notfunk#663708]

Správ. (3)

Oliver Schlag via Oliver Schlag <dl7tny@darf.de>

19. marca 2020, 8:18

Odpovedat': Mailing list for IARU Region 1 Emergency Communications Co-Ordinators <r1emcor@iaru-r1.org>

Komu: gregm@raynet-hf.net, r1emcor@iaru-r1.org

Good Morning together,

Am Donnerstag, 19. März 2020, 01:30:08, schrieb Greg Mossop:

the Covid-19 pandemic is not expected to lead to any immediate communications breakdowns. Oliver DL7TNY has reinforced this in an article on the www.darf.de web page where he says "The current pandemic is a medical emergency and not a technical emergency". However, I have seen on Facebook that at least one group of RNRE in Italy seems to be active during the current pandemic emergency and there appeared to be an Austrian net on Covid-19 held on Wednesday on the German language emergency frequency of 3.643MHz on the 18th March.

My statement at the darf.de portal was just a teaser to a larger interview. I will add a longer translation for your personal use at the end of my mail. You will see, that i always use a time reference in my sentences to show the people, that the situation can and may change. But for me in germany it is very important to calm down everybody, because some parts of the emcom community here are going nuts. They tried to convince our board of directors to set an "alert" (what ever that means) for the emcom community to stay prepared - because if we won't do that "Hamradio in germany will fail forever". In my opinion this people are doing more bad than good with this behavior, because they are spreading FUD (Fear, Uncertainty and Doubt).

I received information about the austrian emcom round via a youtube video (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ocbGohoA8i8>). This video and its description stating that on 3.643 MHz is a "Corona Round" and we need to monitor frequencies now closer and for a longer time than before is exactly what my interview should prevent. Telling people that there is a higher need for frequency monitoring than normal, is just another way of spreading FUD.

Just my 2 cents, and now the translation (primarily google translate) of my interview (which will be in CQ-DL 05-2020). Keep in mind, that this is only my view from germany, it might differ in your countries. (And yes the Mr. Spock was necessary ;-)

73 and stay healthy!

Oliver, DL7TNY

> At the moment, one has the feeling that the corona crisis equals the situation of a major loss situation. Is that the situation you've been preparing for in the past few years?

The current pandemic is a medical emergency and not a technical emergency. Therefore, we currently do not see any situation that requires the special skills of radio amateurs. So far, there are no signs that the situation is changing to the extent that large-scale failures of telecommunications and / or energy supply could be at risk. As far as we are aware, plans are underway at all relevant companies to ensure that operations are ensured. (See, for example, the report on <https://www.golem.de/news/corona-telekom-hat-notfall-und-pandemieplaene-aktiviert-2003-147272.html> about Deutsche Telekom's plans).

> What do you think of how amateur radio can generally help in this situation?

Even if it may seem tempting at the present time to demand the use of radio amateurs' resources, there is currently no reason to do so. Apart from temporary overloads in the IP networks of some providers, the means of

communication continue to work without any noteworthy problems. If a radio amateur does not belong to the risk group and wants to get involved in the current situation, there are now help groups in many cities and counties that take on shopping or minor assistance for fellow citizens with particular risk. Classic neighborhood help, without any technical effort.

> Has help already been requested by authorities?

I am not aware of any such requests so far. But as I mentioned earlier, we do not see any need for the special skills of radio amateurs at the moment, but we are monitoring the situation very closely and can be reached accordingly by our contacts.

> Have you talked in your department on how to act in this situation?

We coordinated both in the department and with our board member Werner. We all believe that acting calmly and prudently at this stage is the best way for everyone to deal with this pandemic. One or the other may have noticed that we have not issued any instructions. We are laypersons in the areas that are now relevant and have no experience of how such a pandemic develops. We therefore refrain from doing so, because the extensive press coverage means that all citizens are adequately reached and informed. If in doubt, an additional source of information via amateur radio only adds to the confusion and uncertainty. Nevertheless, amateur radio is, of course, far from any risk of infection, the means of choice for social contacts.

If we receive inquiries from authorities, we will discuss the needs and the further procedure together with the authorities and the users on site. At the current time, no regular emergency radio rounds or special readiness are necessary or planned.

> What does the emergency radio department recommend to DARC members?

Find out about the current restrictions and recommendations for action from the Robert Koch Institute, the federal or state government. Since the pandemic is a very dynamic scenario, the recommendations or guidelines can change several times - keep yourself informed.

And otherwise use the free time to liven up the bands. Far from any risk of infection, amateur radio is of course the means of choice for social contacts all over the world. So go to your shack, turn over the shortwave or talk to your radio friends directly or through the local relays. Take the opportunity to forget the current social distance in real life on the bands.

> How could the emergency radio be integrated even more?

At this point in time, we see no need or need for this. We do not currently have the skills that are needed by the population. Therefore, it is now up to us to follow the recommendations of the Robert Koch Institute and the government to limit the consequences of the pandemic.

> How do you see the further course of the crisis?

I see that we as civilization have to do more to protect and support the risk groups. If we succeed, then we can possibly get away with a "black eye" here. To do this, however, everyone must restrict their personal freedom and think about the welfare of the community. I always have the almost famous sentence by Mr. Spock, from the well-known television series "Spaceship Enterprise" in mind, "The good of many, it weighs more than the good of few or an individual." and that should be our maxim these days.

Mit freundlichen Grüßen

Oliver Schlag

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Hi colleagues,

I have promised to report you from todays conference for SIQUAKE2020 earthquake international exercise. Conference has been canceled a week ago. The cause is of course COVID-19.

Situation in S5 is nearly the same as in other EU countries.

About COVID-19 and S5 ARON EmComm teams.

Before coronavirus has struck EU I have informed all team members in our hamradio community that we respond and help if authorities will call us for that. Situation is specific and a little bit different from other natural disasters. We are planned and mentioned in national rescue and protection pandemic plan to assist with comms. But at the moment all the public and professional comms are working. So there is no need to involve hamradio EmComm teams to intervene.

I know for three cases on a local community level that hams have helped the civil protection HQ's to install antennas and radios for professional use.

In a case of internet breakdown we are prepared to assist with Winlink via Pactor, packet radio, VARA.

73 & stay healthy,
Tilen Cestnik/S56CT

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Hallo!

Everybody know the situation in Italy related to Covid -19....

This is a sanitary emergency and the government was activating, in the Civil Protection organization, only the sanitary teams.....and at the moment with only some local exceptions we don't need TLC support.

In any case we are operative in function of the regional needs but helping for others activities as logistic, in order to prepare emergency hospitals, or support for food distribution to the population or similar activities

In any case our structure is ready if it will be necessary TLC support, and everybody is connected through our internal nets H24.

My personal opinion is that the Friedrichshafen exhibition will be postponed because the other countries are delayed in comparison with Italy of 2/3 weeks....

It is all for the moment .

73 Good Luck!

Alberto IK1YLO -Italian Coordinator

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