

Pop Quiz for ECOMM

All questions here are about basic ECOMM concepts.

A Passing score is 20 of 25 questions.

1. Where, within ICS, do we fit?

NOWHERE unless asked. There is no room for walk-on operators but once activated we report to the Logistics section.

2. What is the Low Country Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Plan (Berkeley, Charleston, & Dorchester Counties) 10 Jan 2011?

The Low Country Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Plan , is a document to provide information and guidelines to facilitate the sharing of amateur radio communications, human and technical resources within the low Country of South Carolina as they relate to public service emergency and support requests. Or more simply, how we play together when there is more than one group involved.

3. What do you tell NCS when you check out of a net?

Only that you are leaving unless you are taking a break. If taking a break indicate how long you will be gone and then check back in as you return.

4. If you are on your way to your assignment and you pass a traffic accident, with police there, what do you tell NCS?

Nothing unless it will delay your arrival. The accident has-been / is-being handled, it is of no interest to NCS or the net.

5. During a directed net, how do you gain access and then after passing your information, complete your exchange (in five words or less)?

Tactical in, Callsign out

6. During a directed net, if you have not had a tactical call assigned by the NCS, what could you use as a default tactical?

The suffix (letter[s] to the right of the number) of your call.

7. What is the difference between an event and an incident?

An event is any occurrence that is non emergency in nature where we provide communication services, or our training exercises. An incident is any occurrence where Emergency Service personnel are required to prevent or minimize loss of life or damage to natural resources..

8. During an event or incident if your served agency asks when something happened, where do you get the information?

Look in your log. A good log of activity at/from your station is invaluable.

9. What is NCS in charge of?

The information flow during an event or incident.

10. How much time should you play with your equipment, during an incident?

NONE. Do not adjust, play with or fiddle with any piece of equipment in use for an incident, during that incident, unless it is malfunctioning. Remember, an incident scene is not about radios and being a Ham, it IS about the incident and YOU will either be part of the solution or you become part of the problem.

11. What are the three most important items to have with you during an event or incident?

1. Your ARES/RACES Identification
2. A copy of your license
3. Your equipment

12. What is the most important item for you to bring to an event or incident?

A good attitude. A positive, "how can I help" attitude will go further to cement relations with your served agency than anything else you can do.

13. What are the three most important items of personal preparation?

1. Eat properly
2. Get enough rest
3. Get enough proper exercise

14. In order, what are your priorities when it comes to safety?

1. You
2. Your team
3. Your mission

15. Who may a RACES operator talk with, when activated as RACES, during an incident?

RACES operators may only talk with other RACES operators during an incident, when activated as RACES. That is one of the reasons it is best to be part of both ARES and RACES.

16. Name any three of the six top techniques in the Communication Guidelines.

1. Brevity and clarity
2. Slow Down!
3. Do not editorialize
4. Do not rationalize your answers
5. Listen
6. Use plain language and ITU phonetics

17. What are the two most important considerations in passing traffic?

1. Do not speculate
2. Pass traffic exactly as written

18. What are the five major management functions within ICS?

1. Command
2. Operations
3. Planning
4. Logistics
5. Finance and Administration

19. What three concepts facilitate communication within ICS?

1. Unity of Command
2. Chain of Command
3. Span of Control

20. Within ICS, what is the recommended ratio of leaders to workers?

Between 1:3 and 1:7, with 1:5 recommended.

21. What are the types of controlled nets that an NCS will run?

1. Weekly
2. Event
3. Incident
4. Traffic
5. Staffing

22. Name two of the beneficial attributes of digital communications

1. It's more efficient at passing complicated and/or large volume of information
2. It's more secure. Anyone with a scanner can intercept a digital transmission, but they'll be unable to discern any information simply by listening to it.
3. Data is already in a form that served agency can use (spreadsheet, JPG, doc, etc)
4. Data is in a form that can be easily forwarded via regular internet e-mail if that becomes necessary

23. You're unable to get 100% copy on a station that's using a repeater that you can hear clearly. What alternate means of copying that station could you try?

Check to see if you can copy them on the repeater input frequency (reverse). This means you'll have to know how to do this quickly and efficiently on your radio.

24. Outside an actual emergency, what forum provides the best way to practice emergency communications skills?

Public service events provide an opportunity to communicate exactly as you would on a real emergency; with clarity of meaning, brevity, and accuracy.

25. When should you try out new equipment or operational techniques?

Prior to an incident. An incident is busy enough, you don't need problems in new techniques or new equipment distracting you.