Spring 2025 After Action Report
Held on May 31, 2025 1-4PM

The objectives were:

- Neighboring team communications
- Forms 201 and 8
- Dealing with well meaning neighbors who want to donate food/supplies
- Sanitation

Activities Conducted Based on Objectives

All teams made progress on the objectives outlined for the exercise:

- Teams were challenged to complete form ISC 201
- Teams were presented setting up a sanitation station
- Each team used FRS/GMRS radios for intra-team communication; AROs communicated with MCARES Bravo Team at the EOC
- Teams were asked to attempt to reach a neighboring team via FRS radio
- How do teams handle well meaning neighbors who arrive with donations

Teams

Fourteen Portland Teams and one team in Salem (West Salem CERT) participated representing 61 neighborhoods

Each team had an exercise coordinator who was a member of the Planning Committee.

Arbor Lodge/St. Johns
Collins View/South Burlingame/West Portland Park/Marshall Park/Riverdale
Hillsdale
Irvington
Laurelhurst
Mt Scott/Arleta
NW District/Goose Hollow
Pearl District
Rose City/Roseway/Madison South/Sumner/Cully
Sellwood/Woodstock
South Waterfront
SW Combined Teams
SW Hills
Taborvilla
West Salem CERT

A Zoom Team was planned, only two people signed up so it was cancelled. One joined an in-person team, the other joined the radio team. The original premise of the Zoom Team was to show how those who cannot respond in-person can assist teams during a response.

The Numbers

Total number of registrants	251
Participants (day of, actually participated)	212
Number of teams	15
Exercise Coordinators	15
Subnets	4

Hours

742 hours logged

Feedback Scores

	The exercise was well structured and organized.	The overall exercise was plausible and realistic.	The individual scenarios were plausible and realistic.	The exercise will help me be a better NET member.	I felt that my participation was valued and necessary.	The Incident Commander built a strong plan.	Final Score
Spring 2025	4.42	4.27	4.29	4.71	4.66	4.13	4.42
Fall 2024	3.75	3.6	3.68	3.84	3.91	3.4	3.69
Spring 2024	4.63	4.3	4.31	4.72	4.5	4.09	4.43
Fall 2023	4.41	4.3	4.3	4.7	4.67	4.06	4.41
Spring 2023	4.45	4.28	4.49	4.64	4.45	4.35	4.44
Fall 2022	4.28	4.21	4.16	4.47	4.4	4.05	4.08
Spring 2022	3.14	3.14	3.26	3.05	2.86	2.52	3.00
Fall 2021	4.31	3.79	4.32	4.03	4.35	4.08	4.15
Spring 2021	3.86	3.86	3.83	4.08	3.82	3.43	3.81

What do participants want to focus on for the Fall 2025 CDE

Exercise participants identified several items that need continued focus in the next CDE:

- Working with (and organizing) forms
- Working with other teams
- More medical practice
- Additional radio communication
- Setting up ICS structure
- Search & Rescue techniques

Comments from participants

- I liked that it was based on a real historical event from the region
- We needed a tornado drill
- Power poles/lines will always be vulnerable in a tornado situation… Multiple injects were a nice touch
- From easy to more challenging over the course of the three hours
- The Pearl is always a different situation. Broken glass might be the biggest issue…
- Something different from earthquake but many of the injects could apply to earthquakes as well as a tornado
- Touched on topics less covered such as dealing with donations and question of limits to NET authority
- Think about vertical neighborhoods
- Being asked to actually walk around the neighborhood and practice documentation felt really concrete and helpful for thinking about the realities of what a scenario would be like

Exercise Follow-up

The planning committee encouraged each team to conduct a brief "hot wash" immediately following the exercise to report on their experience, give initial reactions to the planning committee through their exercise coordinators, and begin to identify areas where individual teams need to work on improvement and also where the team currently excels so that their skills can be maintained. It appears that most teams were able to have an on scene (or nearby) hot wash.

The planning committee conducted a follow-up survey offered to all exercise participants to gather more in-depth feedback on various aspects of the exercise. The summary feedback is presented in the chart on page two of this report in the Feedback Scores section.

This after-action report will be used in planning future exercises.

A hotwash was held at a Wednesday night NET training

This time around we have also scheduled a hotwash with Exercise Coordinators

Notes From Fall 2025 CDE Hotwash (held on June 11, 2025)

How do we approach a small child or infant who are alone?

When do we send communications to certain people? To the staging area, the ARO or the EOC?

Carrying our packs and walking long distanced can be hard and tiring. Some have found that using a few smaller packs (chest pack, fanny pack, etc.) is easier. Also you can pare down your pack if you know you will only need certain items for your assignment.

Make sure to identify yourself to residents as fellow neighbors and volunteers. Some may fear government officials.

Having a Safety Officer was great. They could answer teams questions such as "Can we do that?" "How far back to we need to stay from this?"

Would like to see injects be on a half sheet of paper, uniform size. Easier for Exercise Coordinators to print and assemble and for teams in the field.

Role-plays were a good idea, but would like to have neighbors fill those roles. PBEM is checking to see if we can do this.

There is a new technology called Meshtastic. It can send encrypted text messages. Not reliable yet, but something for the future.

Teams are looking for ways to produce maps showing addresses.

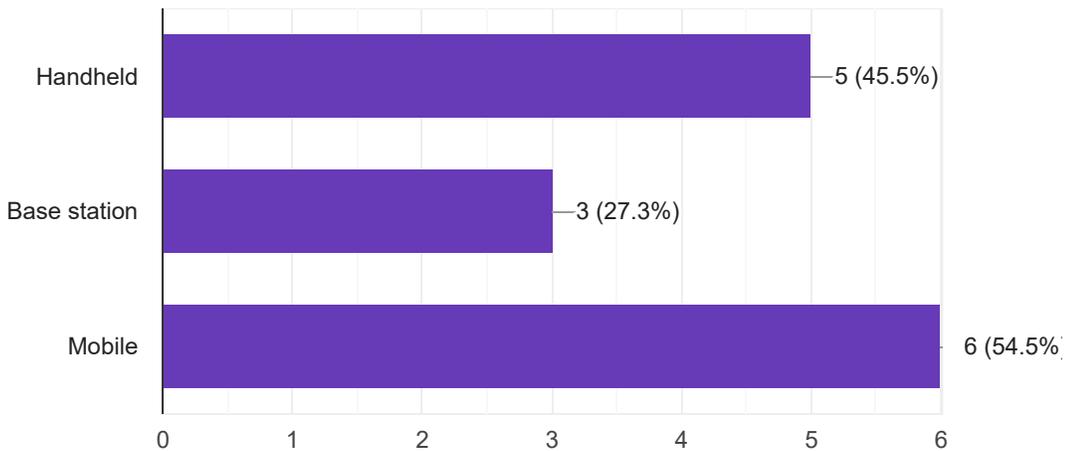# ARO Survey for Citywide Deployment Exercise (CDE) on May 31, 2025

11 responses

Publish analytics

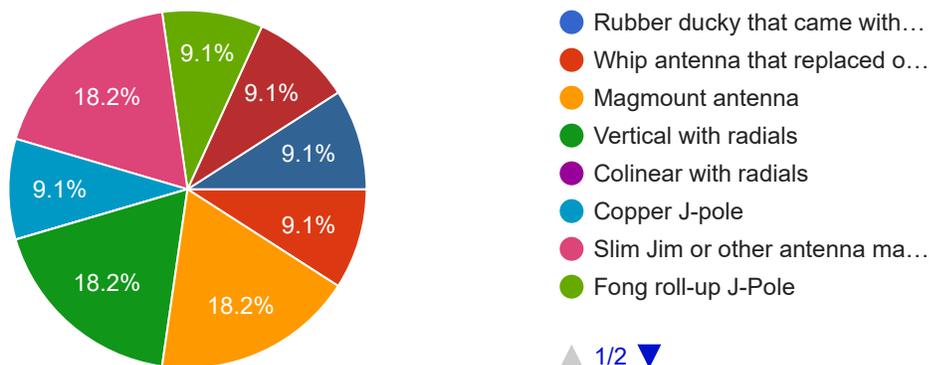## Type of the radio you used during the CDE on May 31st (check all that apply)

Copy

11 responses

Type of the antenna you primarily used
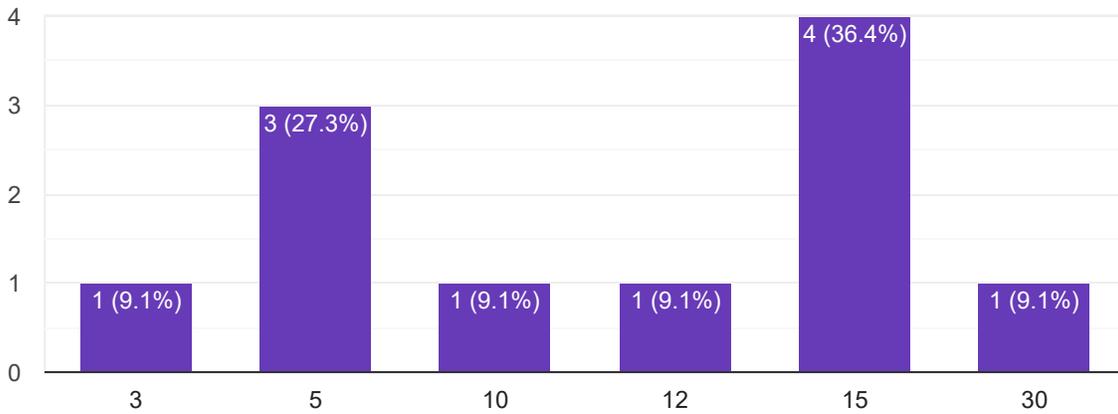
Copy

11 responses

- ● Rubber ducky that came with…
- ● Whip antenna that replaced o…
- ● Magmount antenna
- ● Vertical with radials
- ● Colinear with radials
- ● Copper J-pole
- ● Slim Jim or other antenna ma…
- ● Fong roll-up J-Pole

▲ 1/2 ▼

Rough estimate of height of the base of your antenna **above ground** level (not above sea level) in feet during contacts with subnet control.

Copy

11 responses

Transmit power that you used in watts. (Most handhelds use 5 watts when set to high power.) If your radio has L, M or H power settings instead of watts and you're not sure what they correspond to, indicate L, M or H instead of watts.
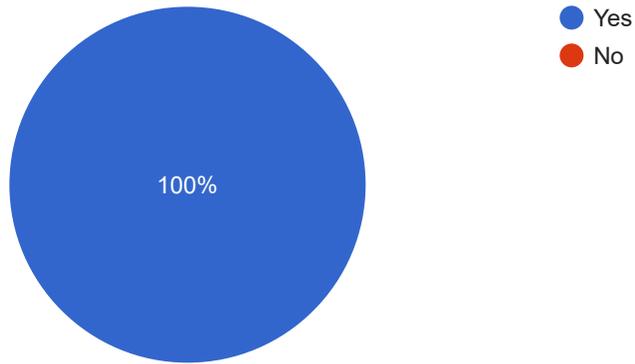
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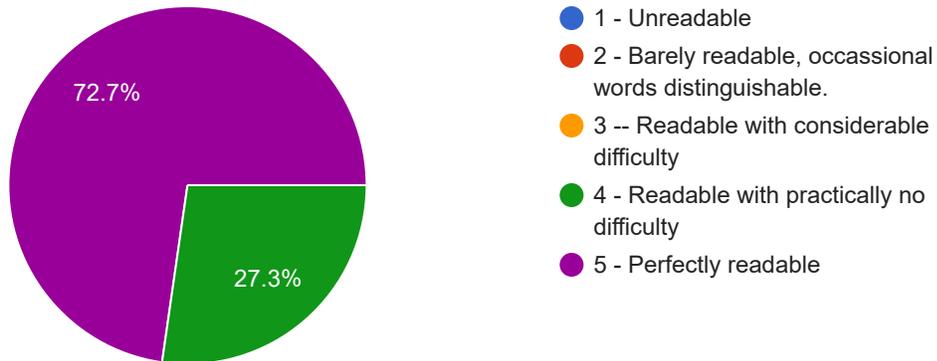11 responses

Were you able to check into the Resource Net?

11 responses

- Yes
- No

100%

How well could you hear the Resource Net?

11 responses

Copy

- 1 - Unreadable
- 2 - Barely readable, occassional words distinguishable.
- 3 -- Readable with considerable difficulty
- 4 - Readable with practically no difficulty
- 5 - Perfectly readable

72.7%

27.3%
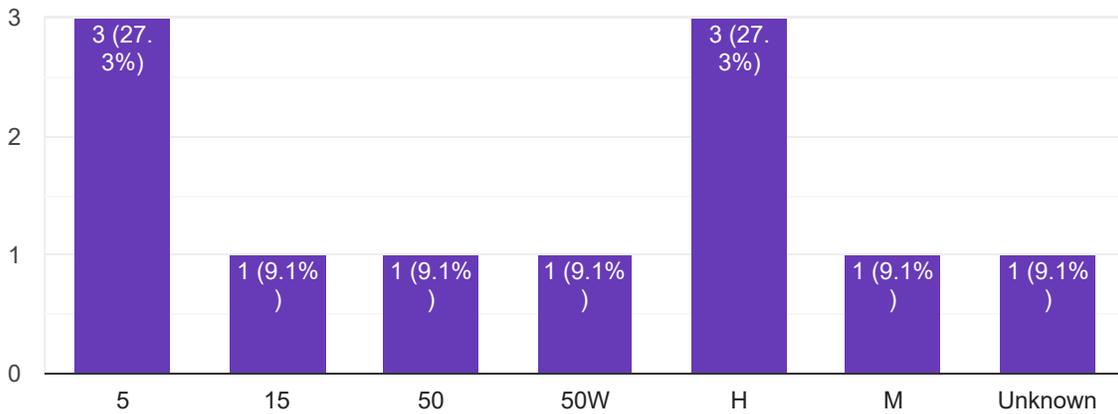
How well was your subnet controller able to hear you?

11 responses

Copy

- 1 - Not at all
- 2 - Not well enough to be useful
- 3 - Readable with considerable difficulty
- 4 - Readable with practically no difficulty as far as I know
- 5 - Perfectly readable as
- 4, other than when I turned the power down to conserve battery
- Readable after radio & anten…

36.4%

9.1%

9.1%

45.5%
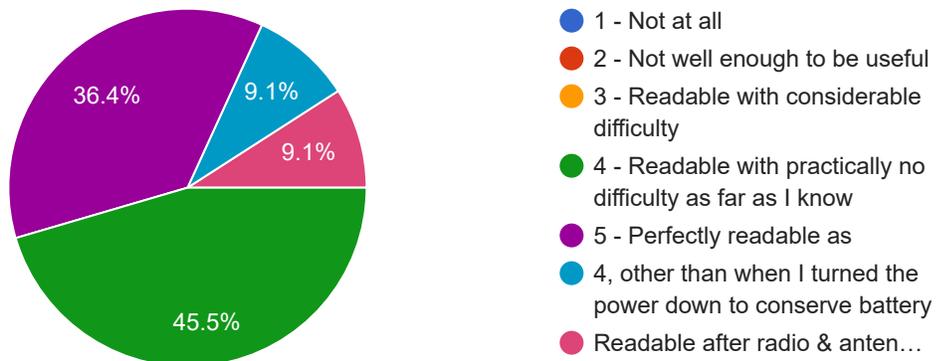
Did another ARO relay some of your communication to or from your subnet controller
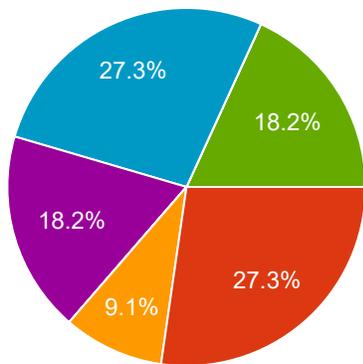
Copy

11 responses

- ● Yes, that was only way we could communicate
- ● Some of the time during the exercise
- ● No, all my communications with the subnet controller were direct

90.9%

9.1%

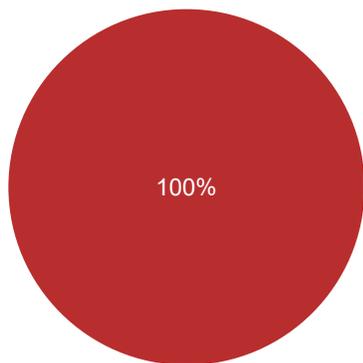## What subnet region did you participate in?
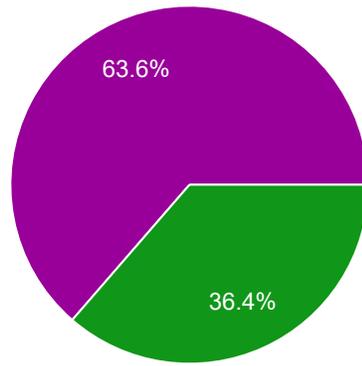
Copy

11 responses

- ● Alameda North and New Northeast
- ● Alameda South
- ● Columbia
- ● Outer East
- ● River North
- ● River South
- ● Southeast
- ● Westside
- ● None of the above as I didn't t…

27.3%

18.2%

18.2%

9.1%

27.3%

If you tried another subnet before the one you selected above, what was that other subnet?

Copy

3 responses

- ● Alameda North and New Northeast
- ● Alameda South
- ● Columbia
- ● Outer East
- ● River North
- ● River South
- ● Southeast
- ● Westside
- ● None of the above as I check…

100%

How well could you hear your Subnet Controller?
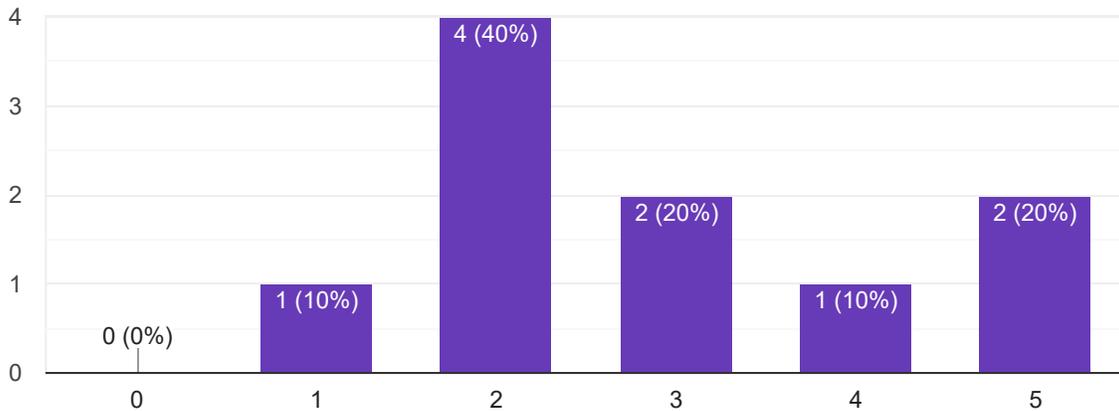
11 responses

Copy

- ● 1 - Unreadable
- ● 2 - Barely readable, occassional words distinguishable.
- ● 3 -- Readable with considerable difficulty
- ● 4 - Readable with practically no difficulty
- ● 5 - Perfectly readable

How many NET Form 8s did your subnet controller read to you during the exercise?
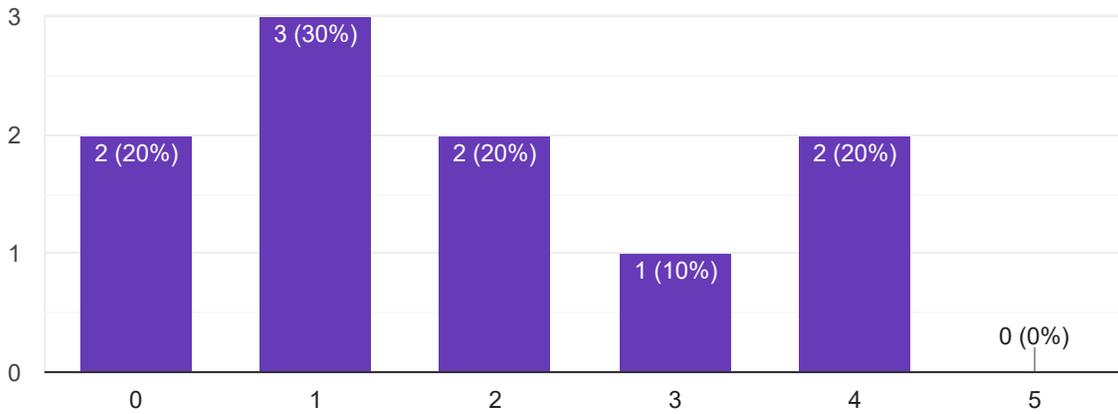
10 responses

Copy

How many replies to NET Form 8s did you read to your subnet controller during the exercise?
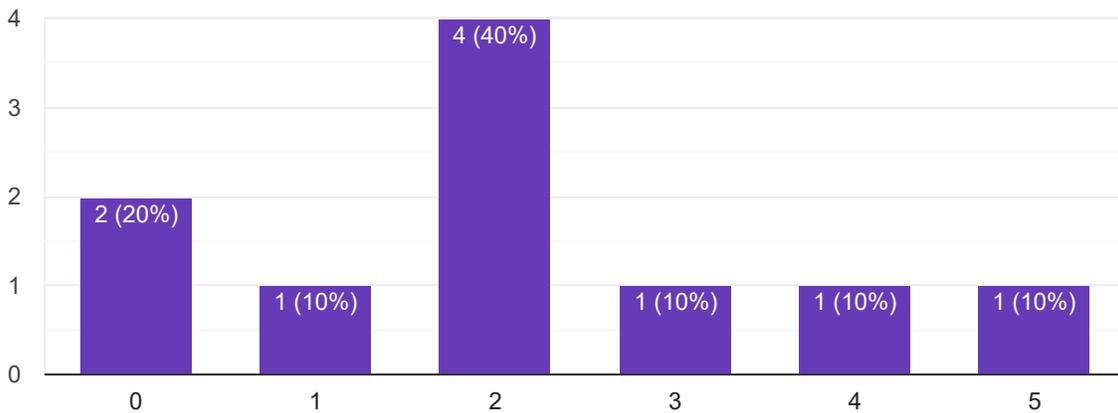
10 responses

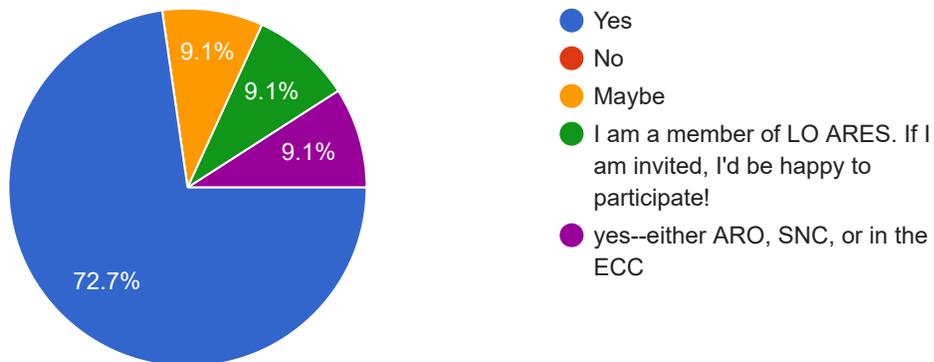## How many NET Form 8s did you read to your subnet controller?

10 responses

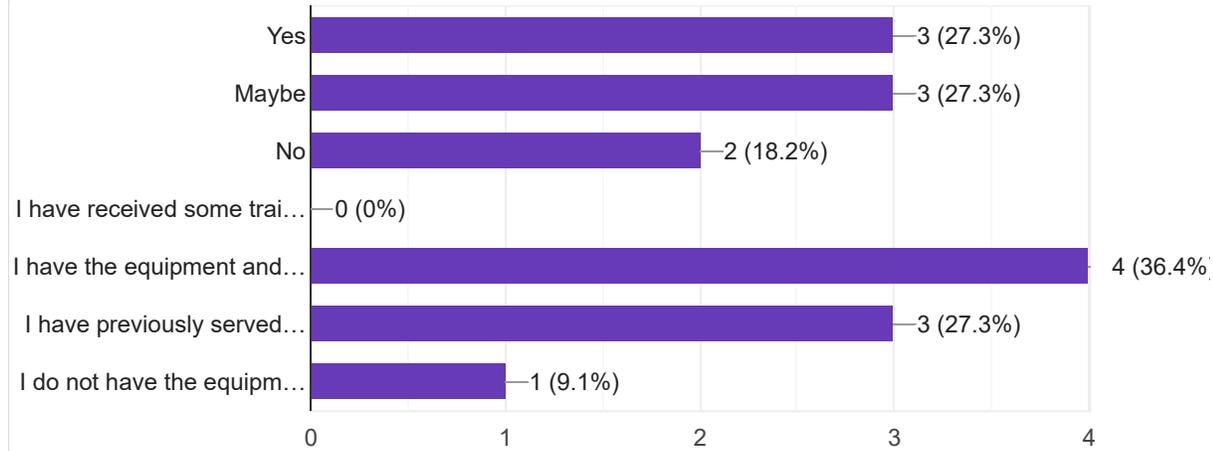## Do you expect to participate again as an ARO in the future?

11 responses

Legend:
- Yes
- No
- Maybe
- I am a member of LO ARES. If I am invited, I'd be happy to participate!
- yes--either ARO, SNC, or in the ECC

Would you be interested in serving as a subnet controller in the future? (Check all that apply)

11 responses

Copy

Yes	3 (27.3%)
Maybe	3 (27.3%)
No	2 (18.2%)
I have received some trai…	0 (0%)
I have the equipment and…	4 (36.4%)
I have previously served…	3 (27.3%)
I do not have the equipm…	1 (9.1%)

How could the ARO instructions provided for this exercise be improved?

10 responses

As a visiting ARO, I found your instructions to be very helpful.

No problem with the specific instructions and the ARO SOP. The combo worked for me.

Discrepancy about checking out from Resource. Instructions - no, on air preamble - yes.

It was fine

No ideas at this time.

N/A: good instructions

A video walkthrough of the process would make the instructions more accessible.

I read ALL the instructions and print them (I put them in a special folder that I take to the staging area)--the links in the instructions are useful--however, I wouldn't mind having all the materials in one large PDF--nevertheless, I print them and place them in order so that i can refer to them as needed--on the front of the notebook that holds the instructions, I write a few important pieces of information on the front and I also have a half sheet of blank paper that I write instructions from Resource and/or SNC

I found them to be clear and concise.

More concise and to the point. Too much talking that had no direct purpose. Too many words.

How could these exercises be made more valuable in preparing you to help in an actual emergency?

6 responses

CDEs are short, but practicing a shift change of subnets and of AROs would be valuable

Practice is good

Resource Net could provide instructions to ARO regarding type of messages the EOC wants to receive during the exercise

Seeing or hearing more examples net form 8s would be helpful, especially with the options for the "to" section and examples of different precedences.

have a review zoom session to go over the instructions--I am not sure everyone reads the instructions--provide examples of filling out the logging form as the example exercise on zoom continues--perhaps video an ARO and as each part of the instructions unfolds, stop the video and show the forms and how to complete them

I think they're pretty good. Practice, with multiple players, helps immensely.

Please provide any other comments you may have.

6 responses

Increase traffic volume (e.g., Subnet Controller - Subnet - NET Teams), Incorporate Winlink.

Subnet controller was off frequency frequently to send traffic on. Needed a second operator to send these and to keep traffic moving.

Team members were shown how long this method of communication takes and understood the need to keep messages brief.

Subnet control was definitely a bottle neck for our team. We had around six form eights to communicate, but there was only time to convey two or three. This could also be a realistic scenario for an emergency. I also value the process of training/exercising SN controlers...so this isn't a criticism or suggestion for changes, per se. In an emergency, I would try to convey the form eights by Winlink, rather than by voice.

The SNC needs to read and review the exercises--several teams just started talking to each without getting permission from the SNC--the SNC would say he would be gone for a bit to do Winlink but neglected to assign a temporary SNC--also, when the two teams started talking to each other the SNC should have asked them to go to a different frequency and then return to the regional frequency--however, this was a very good exercise and I really enjoyed participating as an ARO--I tried to check into the Southeast region but didn't hear anyone

Thanks

I don't have my form 6 with me to tell you the traffic counts

Optional Information: Name, call sign and/or NET team

9 responses

KM6ZMV

Matthew (Matt) L. Stanley, KK7MLS

Twila KD7EYN, Sellwood

Gabe Zee KK7LWR SW Hills

Jim. KJ7DMV

Jesse Engum, KI7RQE, Hillsdale NET

Kit Howell, k3oki, St. John's

Laura KI7ZZQ

Ed Kraus Hayhurst team

Thanks for filling out this survey. If you would like a reply or would like to
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SNC Survey for Citywide Deployment Exercise (CDE) on May 31, 2025

4 responses
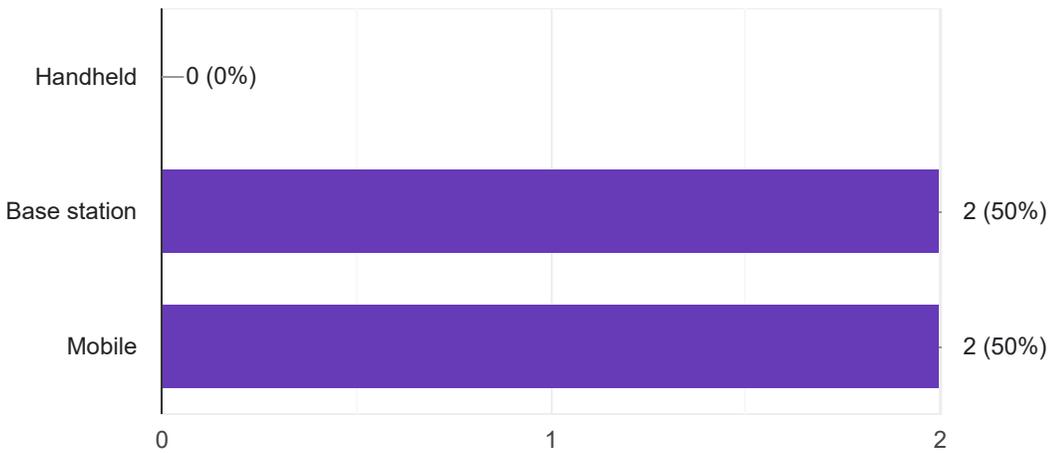
Publish analytics

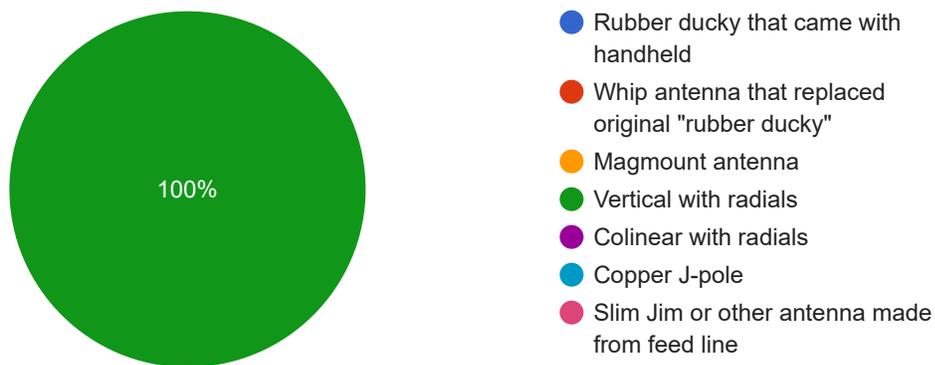## Type of the radio you used during the CDE on May 31st (check all that apply)

Copy

4 responses

Handheld — 0 (0%)

Base station — 2 (50%)

Mobile — 2 (50%)

Type of the antenna you primarily used

Copy

4 responses

100%

● Rubber ducky that came with handheld
● Whip antenna that replaced original "rubber ducky"
● Magmount antenna
● Vertical with radials
● Colinear with radials
● Copper J-pole
● Slim Jim or other antenna made from feed line

Rough estimate of height of the base of your antenna **above ground** level (not above sea level) in feet
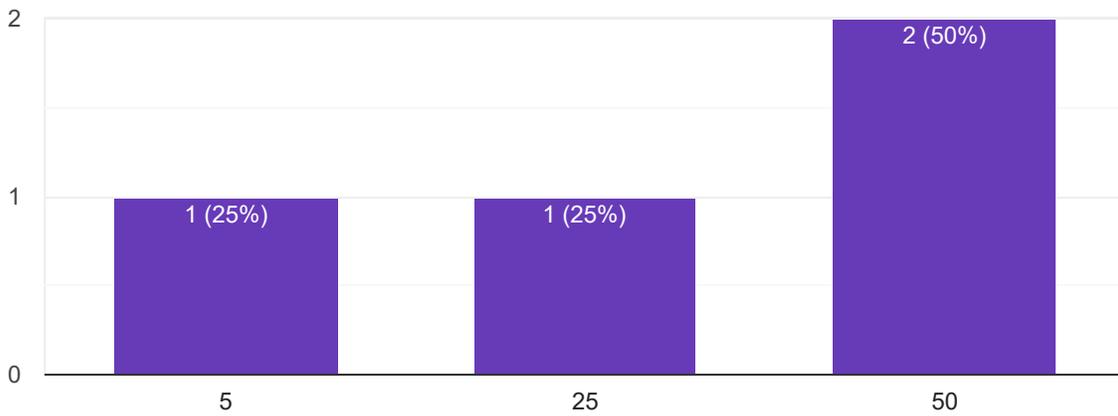
4 responses

20

25

70

30

Transmit power that you used in watts. If your radio has L, M or H power settings instead of watts and you're not sure what they correspond to, indicate L, M or H instead of watts.   Copy
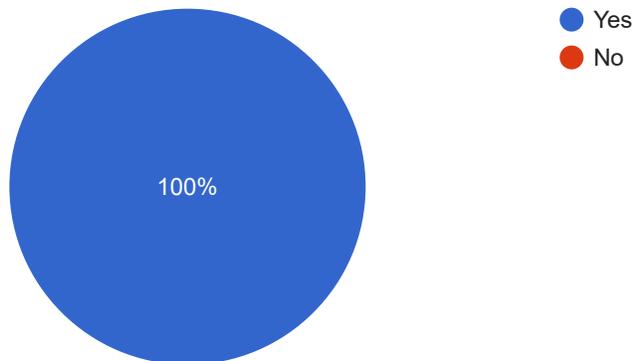
4 responses

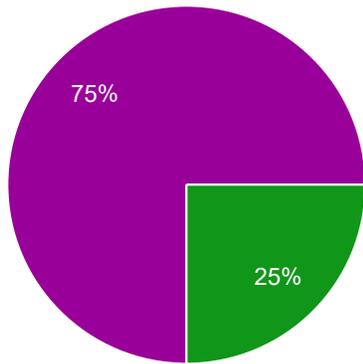Were you able to check into the Resource Net?   Copy

4 responses

● Yes
● No

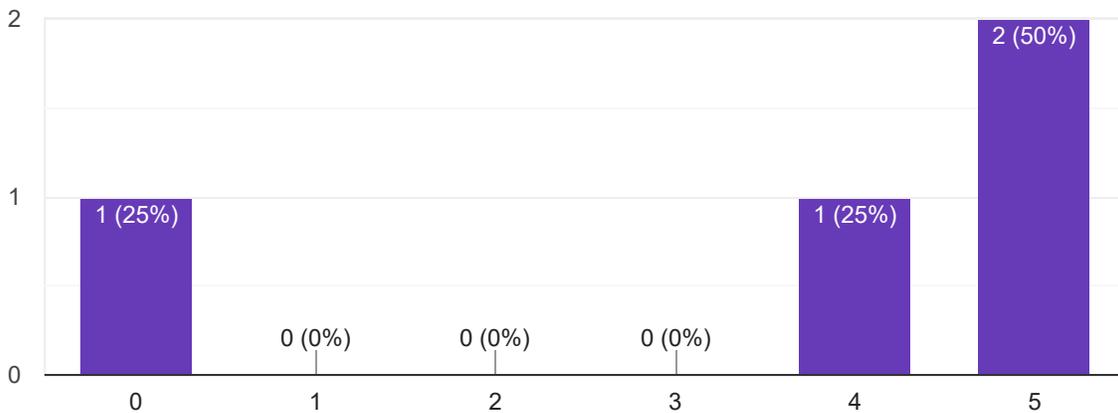## How well could you hear the Resource Net?

4 responses

- 1 - Unreadable
- 2 - Barely readable, occassional words distinguishable.
- 3 - Readable with considerable difficulty
- 4 - Readable with practically no difficulty
- 5 - Perfectly readable

Copy

How many messages from the Portland EOC radio room did you receive by Winlink during the exercise?
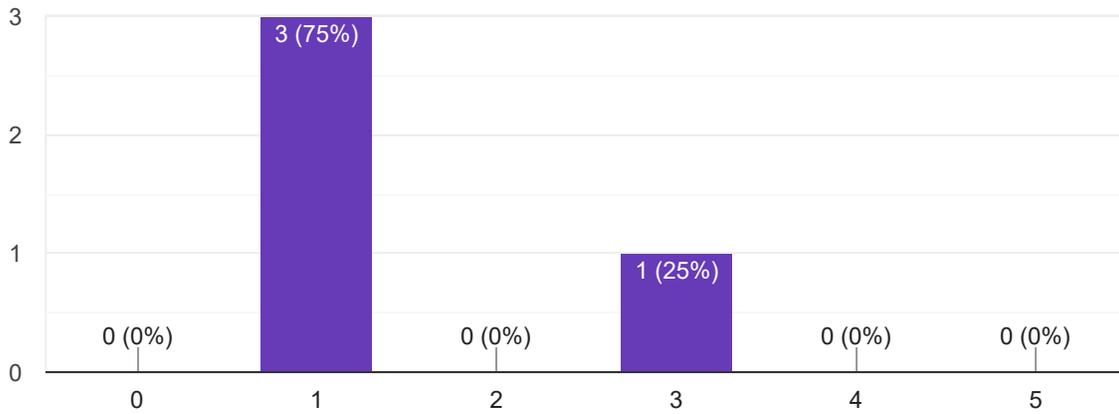
4 responses

Copy

How many messages from the Portland EOC radio room did you receive by voice during the exercise?
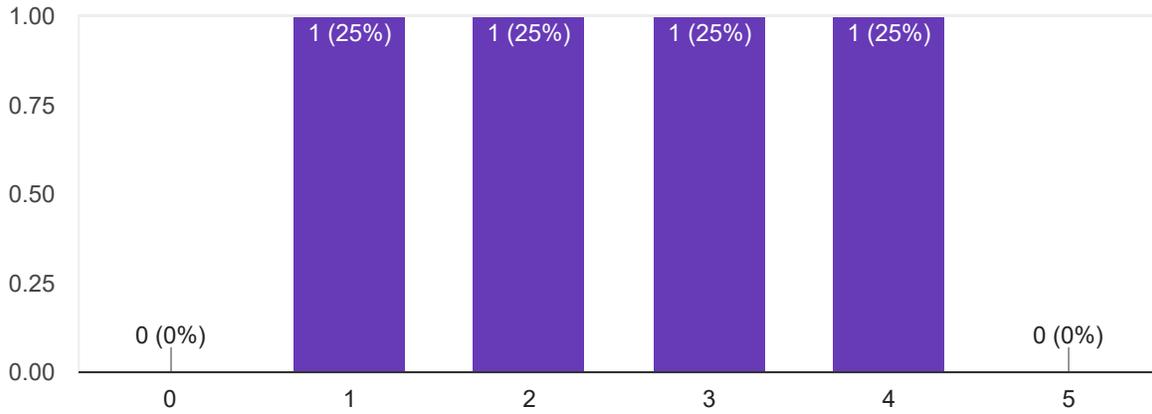
Copy

4 responses

- 0: 0 (0%)
- 1: 3 (75%)
- 2: 0 (0%)
- 3: 1 (25%)
- 4: 0 (0%)
- 5: 0 (0%)

How many Form 8s or ICS 213s from Portland EOC did you read to the AROs on your subnet during the exercise?

Copy

4 responses

- 0: 0 (0%)
- 1: 1 (25%)
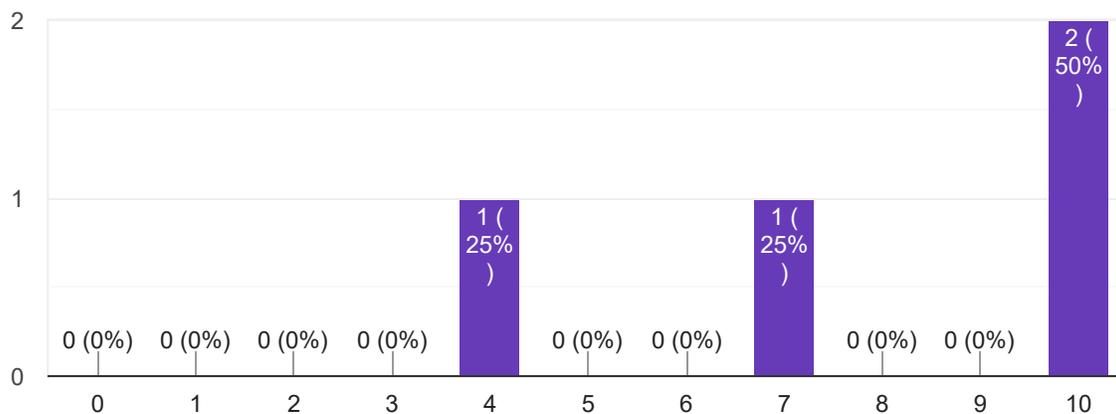- 2: 1 (25%)
- 3: 1 (25%)
- 4: 1 (25%)
- 5: 0 (0%)

Approximately how many Form 8s did you receive from the AROs in your region during the exercise?
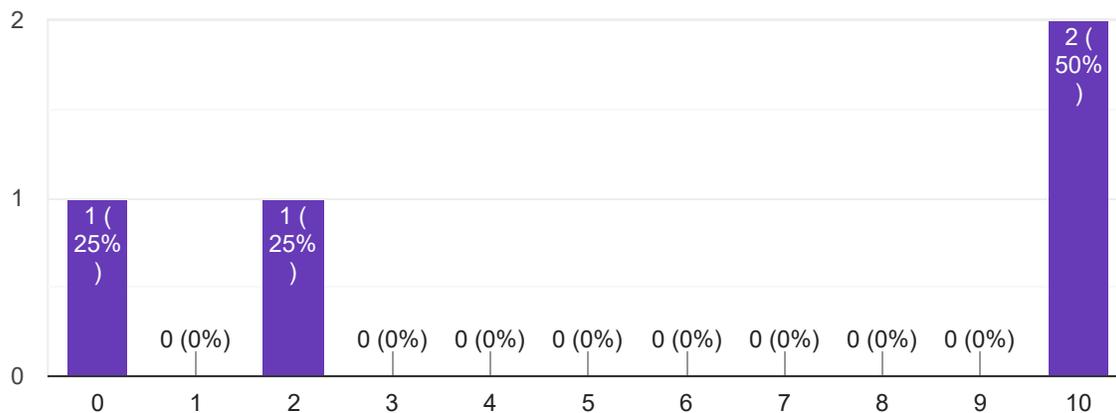
Copy

4 responses

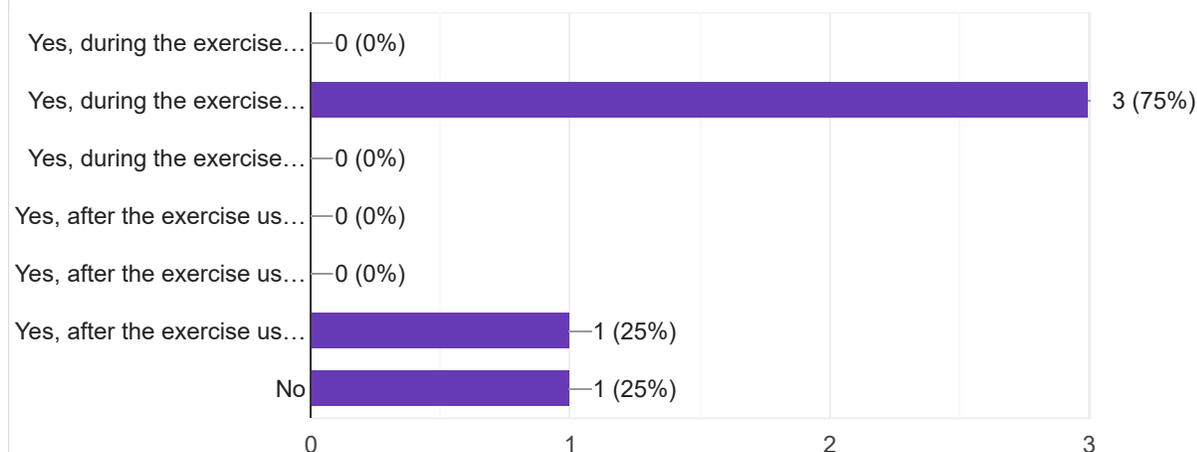**Approximately how many total replies did you receive from AROs to Form 8s or ICS 213s?**

Copy

4 responses

Did you send message(s) to the EOC using Winlink? (Check all that apply.)

4 responses

Yes, during the exercise…	0 (0%)
Yes, during the exercise…	3 (75%)
Yes, during the exercise…	0 (0%)
Yes, after the exercise us…	0 (0%)
Yes, after the exercise us…	0 (0%)
Yes, after the exercise us…	1 (25%)
No	1 (25%)

Copy

How could the SNC instructions provided for this exercise be improved?

4 responses

A single sheet with bulleted highlights would have been very helpful. The many linked sheets of instructions presented difficulties

I found them clear, I would highlight the need for a scribe.

It felt like I had to assemble the instructions from multiple documents. Something streamlined as a summary might be helpful.

Simplify the instructions and rely less on link documents.

How could these exercises be made more valuable in preparing you to help in an actual emergency?

4 responses

Was unable to connect to ECC Winlink and had to voice messages. Very likely an accurate portrayal of circumstances in a real emergency

More often as SNC, they really highlight getting the desk flow organized

Hard to say!

Not sure. I learned a ton as it was.

Please provide any other comments you may have.

2 responses

A lack of scribe introduced interesting paper work issues, as all forms were digitial, and the wind was a fine breeze, transitioning between digital and analog and swapping pages on a small desk proved interesting. When voicing one can scribble on the side in a pinch, however not a great idea on a monitor:) Further, I would find myself turning down tak as they had a habit of broadcasting while I was also relaying NET bulletins, once again, a scribe would have been a great resource in this case, I will correct this next time!

It was a fun exercise and all the AROs did a great job. BTW I handled about 12 replies and 2 additional 213s from the 3 AROs. Responses to ECC were combined when possible.

Optional Information: Name and/or call sign

4 responses

Robert Taylor WK3T

Andrew Gilligan, AI7MI (SNC River south)

N4LYD

K7MWG

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