

**RADIO RELAY INTERNATIONAL
BULLETIN
EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS EXERCISE**



14 March 2023

On **Saturday, March 18**, the Seattle Area Emergency Hubs will be conducting an emergency communications exercise. This exercise is designed to test the “I Am Safe” program, a joint cooperative effort between the Seattle Emergency Communication Hubs (<http://seattleemergencyhubs.org/>), Seattle Auxiliary Communication Service (ACS) (<https://www.seattleacs.org/>), Radio Relay International (radiorelay.org) and the Winlink Development Team (winlink.org).

You can learn more about the “I Am Safe” program on the Radio Relay International website at: www.radiorelay.org

This exercise will result in over 100 messages being sent, many of which will be test welfare radiograms. The balance will be email and text (MMS) messages sent from the exercise area via Winlink. These will go directly to the recipients. The radiograms will be sent from Seattle mostly to people in ME, NH, MA, NY, NC, FL, and PR. However, all traffic operators should be aware of the exercise in the event that additional messages are routed to other state/section nets. Please note that *most of the recipients are not radio amateurs*.

Network staffing:

1. Digital Traffic Stations and RRI-Winlink Region Gateway operators are asked to increase their connect and download frequency to a minimum of once every two hours from 1700Z to 2200Z when available to do so. In states where DTS duties are held by more than one operator, it may be helpful to coordinate in advance to share responsibilities.
2. Traffic operators providing the “last mile” delivery service are asked to treat any incoming radiogram as if it were an actual welfare message. Prompt relay or delivery is essential. Professional decorum and presentation are required.

Instructions for delivering the test welfare radiograms:

1. Test welfare radiograms will include a valid telephone number. All messages will be originated by a verified third party.
2. When calling the addressee, please identify yourself as a “licensed amateur radio operator.” Indicate that you are delivering (or attempting to deliver) a test welfare radio message from the originator (individual whose name appears in the signature of the radiogram).
3. Offer to send a hard copy of the radiogram message to the addressee. If they agree, please request an email address and prepare a radiogram according to the following procedure:
 - Use Radio Relay International Form 1801 or 1801-ACP. This is a fillable PDF radiogram form available on our Publications page at: <https://radiorelay.org/publications>

- Type the message and related content in “all capitals.” Be sure to include your local contact information in the fields provided on the form.
 - PRINT the form as a PDF. Use a file name such as: “Radiogram [last name addressee]
 - Attached the radiogram to an email and indicate that you have a radiogram for the addressee, from whom it was received (the person whose name appears in the signature),
 - Provide your contact information.
4. After the exercise, please report the date/time the message was received and the date/time it was delivered to:

Radio Relay International
Affiliated Programs Manager
Steve Hansen (KB1TCE)
Kb1tce@belljar.net

Additional Information:

A variety of documents regarding the “I Am Safe” program are available on the RRI web page. Traffic Operators are encouraged to review these documents in advance of the exercise.

For those unfamiliar with the Radio Relay International Web Page, please take some time to review the content.

Additional emergency communications exercises are already planned for the coming months. If you would like to be on the list to receive exercise or operational announcements, newsletters, or bulletins from RRI, please consider becoming an RRI Registered Radio Operator. The form can be found at:

<https://radiorelay.org/registration-forms>

Thank you!

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