Memo:

REGARDING: Multi-County Communications plan
DATE: Feb. 24, 2017.

TO:
Cambridge Amateur Radio Club c/o Bob, ve3MF
Guelph Amateur Radio Club c/o Terry ve3XTM
Kitchener-Waterloo Amateur Radio Club c/o Rick, ve3ZUP, Larry ve3
Norfolk Amateur Radio Club c/o Gerry ve3DYY
Elmira Amateur Radio Club c/o Joyce va3WXU

FROM:
Elmira Amateur Radio Club Inc,. c/o Rich ve3DCC

Hello:
May I share an idea that has been percolating at ve3ERC for a while and could I solicit your opinion and feedback on this proposal?

Ve3ERC has a membership of 37. We are incorporated and we are RAC-affiliated.

We have enjoyed a warm and supportive relationship with our township fire services—in fact, we meet and have free access to the Elmira fire hall. Two of our repeaters and an HF antenna are currently located there.

The Elmira Radio Club is an official part of the township emergency plan and, in the assumption that the fire and police services communications do NOT fail, we are pleased to provide emergency citizen health and safety communications out of the evacuation centres. We are not CB types and we do not put ourselves in harm's way. The assumption that our participation would remove some stress on the "official" services, and that we would not get in the way, has facilitated our involvement with the township. Our written plan outlines how available mobile operators, on request, could report to evacuation centres and send messages out to base stations in "safer" locations so health and welfare messages can be delivered by any means, be it digital, email or telephone, anywhere.

The loose definition of a disaster includes the notion that all fixed infrastructure fails.
We would like to set up a simple protocol so that ,in the event of a catastrophe, here or at your location, amateur operators, who are able to help with communications, know what frequencies to monitor.

We have members of our club who are registered and able to report to evacuation sites, if requested. We would like to ensure that any radio traffic gets "out" to "safe" external base stations.
We suggest a simple plan to guide our emergency preparedness if any of us suffer a disaster:

1. Each club knows which priority frequencies the target club will be using (ie vhf, uhf, hf and digital)—this would involve including the information in our digital newsletters;
2. Amateurs would be aware of the limited scope of assistance needed and would render assistance if they are able to, from afar;
3. Our clubs narrowly define our focus so we minimize risk to members;
4. We consider mutual support, sharing of resources and training as we experiment with efficient communications to seamlessly pass messages.
5. We pursue an ad hoc, leaderless but focussed multi-county strategy so we are "ready" and "safe".

What do you think? Would your organization want to be part of this simple protocol?

Sincerely,
Richard Clausi, ve3DCC
For ve3ERC, Elmira Radio Club Inc.