

STANDARD PRESS RELEASE

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FLORIDA AMATEUR RADIO OPERATORS TO PARTICIPATE IN STATEWIDE COMMUNICATION EXERCISE

Amateur radio operators from Florida's emergency communications teams will hold a simulated exercise called, "Service DENIED," on Saturday, April 22 2023.

This exercise is based on a simulated statewide cyber-attack impacting communications infrastructure. Such attacks may strike with little or no notice unlike a hurricane. The slogan we all see, "When all else fails, ham radio," would truly pickup its real meaning with a full communications infrastructure outage.

Service DENIED will allow teams from various Florida counties to test their ability to communicate with the State Division of Emergency Management using only amateur radio equipment. In addition, individual amateur radio operators will assist in gathering situation reports and provide them to their local emergency management teams as well as the State using various voice and digital methods.

Teams will test their capability to provide health and welfare messaging for residents. This is a long-standing tradition allowing a resident to relay a message such as, "I'm ok," to their friends or family outside of the impacted area using a national traffic system.

This exercise will encompass radio communications teams from services such as the ARRL's ARES (Amateur Radio Emergency Service), RACES (Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service), and Florida AUXCOMM (Auxiliary Communications).

The exercise will run from 9:00 AM EDT to 11:30 AM EDT on April 22, 2023.

For further information or to find out if your local team is participating, please contact Arc Thames (Northern Florida ARRL Section ARES Emergency Coordinator) at arc.thames@srcares.org or Barry Porter (Southern Florida ARRL Section Manager) at KB1PA@arrl.org.