

## Hazard Assessment

Traditionally late winter and early spring brings a new interest and sometimes revitalization in the local ARES program. As we prepare for spring and summer storms through local training and weather spotter classes, there always seems to be a renewed interest in the overall program. This is good opportunity for the EC to review and update their hazard analysis. If this is an area you have not previously covered, now is the time to start.

The hazard analyses helps the EC list those situations that are most likely to occur in their area of jurisdiction. The first step in hazard analysis is:

- List all major emergency situations,
- Determine the likelihood of each situation occurring in your area,
- Determine if the situation may involve Amateur Radio assistance, and
- Determine what that assistance may be.

To help you draft a simple hazard analyses create a page with 4 columns. In the first column list those hazards that your county would be vulnerable to. In the second column list the probability of the incident occurring. In the third column list the level of impact that the incident would have in your county. Lastly, in the fourth column, list the level of participation what would be required by your ARES group.

A judgment of the Probability that such an emergency might occur, as well as impact and participation should be identified as high, medium, or low. The following list of possible hazards was obtained from "The Emergency Program Manager", the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Emergency Management Institute.

1. Tornado
2. Flood
3. Hazardous Materials
4. Radiological Incident
5. Major Fire
6. Power Outage
7. Ice/Snow Storm
8. Mass Casualty Incident
9. Loss of Water Supply
10. Loss of Commercial Communications
11. Energy/Fuel Shortage
12. Bomb Threat
13. Civil Disorder
14. Drought
15. Enemy Attack
16. Earthquake
17. Dam Failures

There are other incidents that may apply to your geographical area. Remember when doing a hazard analysis for your county, to take into account not only your group's response to the incident but also your group's response to an agency responding to the incident. Once you have done a basic hazard analysis, review it with your local officials such as Police, Fire and DEM as well as a any other locally served agencies.

Knowing ahead of time what hazards you are vulnerable to and what roll your group plays in response and recovery will make your job as EC much less stressful when actual event occurs.