Communications Briefing

for the

Whale Run 2026 Exercise

Communications Path Checks – Saturday, 13 June 2026

This document condenses material presented at the 16 May 2026 virtual Communications Briefing and adds an ICS-205

Participants: All Radio Amateurs

Hours: 9:00 am – Noon

Location: Statewide

Objectives:

1. Prepare for communications disruptions, especially in the event of geomagnetic storms
2. Document radio communications paths by band:
   - EOCs to Staging Divisions
     - A Staging Division is a regional airport which dispatch relief supply flights to impact areas
     - ODART currently has four of these, in Aurora, Bend, Creswell, and McMinnville
   - Airfields to each other and to Staging Divisions
   - Home stations to each other, airports, and Staging Divisions

Where To Go:

- Your local Emergency Operations Center (if you are a member of a group that supports that location)
- The public parking area at any local airfield:
  - Oregon has 100 public airports, 234 private airfields, 88 private heliports, 2 public seaplane bases, 1 private seaplane base, 1 private gliderport, and 1 private ultralight base to select from
- Or stay home, your data is still valuable, especially if you can relay emergency-related messages

What To Do:

- Try to contact as many other stations as possible and keep a log of your contacts
  - 40m and 75m frequencies:
    - 7.250 MHz, suggested contact schedule at 10 and 40 minutes past the hour
    - 3.950 MHz, suggested contact schedule at 15 and 45 minutes past the hour
    - 50.250 MHz, suggested contact schedule at 20 and 50 minutes past the hour
  - On 2m, 1.25m, 70cm, and 33cm use the:
    - National Calling Frequency for each band
    - Local simplex frequency in the amateur radio response plan for your county
    - If you are in an area where VHF/UHF simplex range is challenging, repeater contacts are okay but please be sure to note that in your log
- ODART doesn't need the exact frequency, just the band and two locations
  - Latitude/Longitude (preferred), or
  - Maidenhead grid square (see `https://dxcluster.ha8tks.hu/hamgeocoding` to find it)
- Email your log to: `odart-path-checks@aberle.net`

For Fun, try contacting the ODART Aeronautical Mobile:

- Track the aircraft's path:
  - `https://aprs.fi/#!z=11&call=a%2FW7MPB&timerange=10800&tail=10800`
  - `https://globe.adsbexchange.com/?icao=a0f89f`
- Make a contact via the cross-band repeat radio:
  - If needed, refer to your radio's manual on how to program odd splits into memory
  - Please, no more than one contact if there are a lot of people using it
- Drop off or pick up a message on the Winlink RMS Post Office (VARA FM):
  - Winlink Express settings:
    - Compose message, then in the "Send as" dropdown select "Post Office Message"
    - In the "Open Session" drop down select "Vara FM RMS Post Office"
    - In the "Vara FM RMS Post Office Session" window, be sure the "Freq." is the same as shown below or in the ICS-205
    - Then, set the radio to the same frequency and send the message
  - Please, no more than two connection sessions (so everyone gets a chance)
- Aeronautical mobile flight circuit (times are approximate):

  8:30 am – depart Mulino State Airport, head northwest

  9:15 am – Clatskanie/Westport area, head south along the coast range

  Best opportunity to test communications between Hwy 101 areas and I-5 corridor

  10:30 am – Mapleton area, head east

  11:10 am – McKenzie Bridge area, head north

  Best opportunity to test communications between I-5 corridor and Hwy 97 areas

  11:50 am – Breitenbush area, head northwest and return to Mulino State Airport

Function	Callsign	Ground Transmit		Ground Receive Frequency
		Frequency	Tone	
APRS	W7MPB			144.390 MHz
Winlink Post Office (VARA)	WA7OC	145.830 MHz		145.830 MHz
Cross Band Repeat	W7MPB	147.500 MHz	100.0 Hz	446.025 MHz

Radio Frequencies – ODART Aeronautical Mobile

INCIDENT RADIO COMMUNICATIONS PLAN (ICS 205)

1. Incident Name:	2. Date/Time Prepared:	3. Operational Period:
ODART Communications Exercise	Date: 6/11/26 Time:	Date From: 6/13/26 Date To: 6/13/26 Time From: 09:00 Time To: 12:00

4. Basic Radio Channel Use:

Zone Grp.	Ch #	Function	Channel Name/Trunked Radio System Talkgroup	Assignment	RX Freq N or W	RX Tone/NAC	TX Freq N or W	TX Tone/NAC	Mode (A, D, or M)	Remarks
		Communications Path Check	40 meters	Amateur	7.250 MHz		7.250 MHz		LSB	Suggested contact schedule: 10 and 40 minutes past the hour
		Communications Path Check	75 meters	Amateur	3.950 MHz		3.950 MHz		LSB	Suggested contact schedule: 15 and 45 minutes past the hour
		Communications Path Check	6 meters	Amateur	50.250 MHz		50.250 MHz		USB	Suggested contact schedule: 20 and 50 minutes past the hour
		Communications Path Check	2 & 1.25 meters, 70 & 33 centimeters	Amateur	(see remarks)		(see remarks)		FM	Use National Calling Frequency or local simplex in your county plan
		Aeronautical Mobile	Crossband repeat	Amateur	446.025 MHz		147.500 MHz	100.0 Hz	FM	Aircraft receives on VHF and transmits on UHF
		Aeronautical Mobile	Winlink Post Office (VARA FM)	Amateur	145.830 MHz		145.830 MHz		digital	RMS callsign: WA7OC
		Aeronautical Mobile	APRS, callsign W7MPB	Amateur	144.390 MHz		n/a		digital	Track aircraft on the https://aprs.fi website, callsign W7MPB

5. Special Instructions:

The aeronautical mobile can also be tracked at https://globe.adsbexchange.com/?icao=a0f89f

6. Prepared by (Communications Unit Leader) Name: S. Aberle, WA7PTM Signature: _____

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