



International Amateur Radio Union Region 1
General Conference - 16th to 21st November 2008 - Cavtat, Croatia



SUBJECT	BFRA actions related to Recommendation DV05_C3_Rec_33		
Society	BFRA	Country:	Bulgaria
Committee:	C3	Paper number:	CT08_C3_I_44
Author:	Milcho Milanov, LZ1RF		

BFRA actions related to Recommendation DV05_C3_Rec_33 *

After Davos Recommendation DV05_C3_Rec_33 BFRA took some actions in the spirit of that recommendation.

BFRA equipped a remote emergency communication center in the vicinity of Sofia with facilities for accommodation of four persons, wind and diesel generators, HF and VHF transceivers, Power Amplifiers, rotating HF logoperiodic antenna etc. BFRA took part in all EmComm-Parties-on-the-Air from that location with call sign LZ1BFR / D.

Additionally, few hours before last two EmComm-Parties-on-the-Air, domestic emergency communications exercises were organized with some 150 voluntary attendees. The format of these exercises required each LZ ham, willing to help in real emergency situation, to contact head station LZ1BFR on VHF repeater or on HF and announce his/her type of power supply, ability to activate particular VHF repeaters and/or HF output power. In connection with the above suffix "/D" was invented for LZ amateurs involved.

After the first exercise BFRA informed Bulgarian Ministry of Emergency Situation for the results and submitted a list with the names and addresses of all voluntaries, to be disseminated in the municipalities, and these people be called if there is a need. This information was very highly estimated by the Minister.

As a logical and important next step a joint exercise between BFRA and Civil Protection authorities was agreed. During that exercise four mobile joint groups – radio amateurs from club stations LZ1KSZ, LZ1KCO, LZ1KGZ and LZ2KSV and Civil Protection officers - visited several key objects in the country, vulnerable to different hazard – earthquakes, floods, chemical and nuclear leakages. The groups reported from the remote sites the results of their mission to the Head Office of Civil Protection, using radio amateur bands and the amateur club station in the Civil Protection office as a receiving point. Representatives of Sofia municipality, the other three municipalities involved, and State Agency for Information Technology and Communication were invited and attended as observers.

This exercise attracted very much the government authorities and as a result further steps were agreed as follows:

- BFRA to donate several amateur VHF repeaters and municipalities to organize their installing on sites not covered so far
- BFRA to organize a training course for Civil Protection officers in order to pass the examine and get amateur radio license;

- Civil Protection and municipalities authorities to equip several centers for training new radio amateurs, these centers to be used for emergency communications in real situation, too;
- The institutions above to supply several specialized vehicles with amateur radio equipment;
- BFRA to invite radio amateurs with regard to emergency communications from neighboring countries to a joint exercise in May 2009. Civil Protection to organize that event.
- BFRA to establish contacts with Bulgarian division of European Emergency Number 112 authorities for joint project. BFRA representatives to attend Second 112 Awards Ceremony and the workshop associated.

BFRA put as its priority to negotiate with the respective government institutions for adopting and implementing an official statute of voluntaries – radio amateurs.

BFRA will continue its activity in Emergency Communications field. BFRA considers that field very interesting for newcomers and very suitable for attracting young amateurs. In the same time the work done and the future plans could be a basis for development and implementation of Recommendation DV05_C3_Rec_33.

**The Recommendation, input by BFRA and unanimously approved, envisages actions of EC for announcing a competition amongst MS for best project concerning amateur radio emergency communications, looking for partners able to support financially the project, and starting a pilot version of the project in three to five MS*