

## **Tennessee Emergency Management Agency (TEMA) Winlink Station in EOC**

TEMA has set up a Winlink station in the state emergency operations center (EOC) to receive situation reports. Amateur radio operators, SHARES members and the National Guard are welcome to send messages.

### **Sending messages to the EOC:**

The TEMA station operates using the SHARES callsign, NCS761. However, it is preferred that messages be addressed to the Winlink tactical address **TEMAEOC**. When using Winlink Express to send a message, simply specify "TEMAEOC" as the recipient address.

Although TEMA uses a SHARES callsign, ham radio operators may legally send/receive messages using your ham callsign by sending a "conventional" Winlink message that goes via ham frequencies to a Winlink CMS where it will be picked up by the TEMA station. Hams may not send radio-only Winlink messages to TEMA.

SHARES stations may send radio-only messages as well a conventional (CMS) messages.

### **Message acknowledgements:**

A reply acknowledgement will be returned by TEMA to all incoming messages when they are read. Note, an acknowledgement means only that the message was received. It does *not* mean the information will be used by TEMA or that any action will result from the message. The TEMA Winlink station is checked infrequently when TEMA is not activated (i.e., activation level 5 and 4), so do not be surprised if a long delay occurs before receiving an acknowledgement.

### **Appropriate messages:**

During major incidents, Winlink messages may be sent for situation reports (SITREPS). TEMA does not need to be notified about local events like car wrecks, house fires, etc. that are being handled by local responders. Incidents involving widespread areas such as flooding, spreading fires, hazmat spills, multi-vehicle accidents having major traffic impact, should be reported.

TEMA is **not** a first responder. If you need to report an incident requiring emergency response, call 911 or the appropriate authorities.

### **Message contents:**

Messages sent to TEMA should contain the following information:

1. Your name and callsign.
2. Your cell phone number.
3. The location for which the report applies (be specific).
4. The nature of the incident and the time it occurred if known.
5. Your assessment of whether the incident is contained or likely to spread and affect a large area or number of people.