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Local Amateur Radio conducts emergency exercise in Pct. 3

Lee County Amateur Radio Emergency Services, LeeCARES, held another successful emergency communication exercise in Precinct 3 in Lee County.

On January 16, Lee CARES conducted an exercise in Precinct 3 to check the mobile radio signals from vehicle to vehicle. The goal of the exercise was to establish communications in a simulated emergency in which no repeater, cell phone, or home station were available.

The group exercised direct communications between vehicles set at fixed locations within the Precinct, two of which had antennas raised 20 feet above the ground.

Three roaming vehicles drove through Precinct 3's entire area. Each vehicle tested their radio communication signal with a radio operator located in Williamson County, as well as each other from specified locations within Precinct 3. Members were able to successfully communicate directly with one another, and with the radio operator in Williamson County, in some locations. The locations that were unable to communicate roving vehicle to roving vehicle were able to use the fixed vehicle stations as relay points to keep the communication constant.

On the Eastern side of the precinct, the communications quality was poor. Radio operators recorded

their radio signal strength, or lack of thereof, for each location.

LeeCARES is a step closer to narrowing down strategic locations for a 40 foot or higher permanent mast with antenna that allows mobile emergency responders to assist during a disaster with more reliable communications within the affected community where no other communication is possible.

LeeCARES is working toward determining how to improve the quality of communications in the eastern side of the Precinct. Plans are to repeat the exercise in all precincts of the County.
