Here’s an outline for a tabletop exercise designed for a V/UHF Net with new ham operators. It includes five scenarios, role assignments, and guidance for participants:

Overview of the Exercise:
Duration: 2-3 hours
Participants: 12 (including a Net Control Operator, operators feeding into HF nets, and other V/UHF stations)
Objective: Teach participants how to conduct formal net operations, handle challenges such as repeater failures and interference, and build confidence in emergency communications.
Roles:
Net Control Operator (NCO)

Primary role is to manage the net, direct traffic, and ensure communications flow efficiently.
Must keep track of participant check-ins, relay important messages, and handle issues (e.g., interference).
Alternate Net Control Operator (ANCO)

Stands by in case the NCO cannot continue. Steps in during NCO shift changes or technical failures.
Relay Stations (2 participants)

Responsible for relaying messages between V/UHF nets and HF nets.
Ensure smooth flow of information between nets, especially during poor conditions.
General Stations (up to 6 participants)

Participate by checking in, sending or receiving traffic, and responding to directions from the NCO.
May be asked to perform specific tasks like weather reports, damage assessments, or simulated distress calls.
Interfering Station (1 participant)

Simulates unintentional or malicious interference to disrupt the net, which NCO must handle diplomatically.
New Check-ins (2 participants)

Simulate operators who are unfamiliar with net procedures, testing how NCO handles onboarding new participants.
Emergency Management Liaison (1 participant)

Feeds information to a simulated Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and manages coordination with local authorities.
Guidance for Participants:
Net Control Operator:
Open the net with a formal script: “This is [Your Call Sign], acting as Net Control for the [Event Name] Net. Please stand by for check-ins.”
Manage orderly check-ins, confirm stations by repeating their call signs, and record important messages.
Handle simulated repeater failures by switching to simplex and giving clear instructions to participants.
Deal with new check-ins by explaining net procedures and ensuring their inclusion.
General Stations:
Wait to be called by NCO before transmitting.
Respond promptly to NCO’s instructions and send messages only when prompted.
If a repeater failure occurs, try to move to simplex or follow NCO's instructions to switch frequencies.
Relay Stations:

Ensure you can communicate with HF net operators, especially for cross-band traffic.
Pass messages clearly and concisely. Always confirm receipt of important information.
Scenario 1: Disaster (Earthquake)
Situation: A major earthquake has occurred in the local area. Power is out, and repeater service is disrupted. Emergency traffic is needed to relay information to local authorities.
Objective: Participants must coordinate search-and-rescue information, report damage, and handle high-priority traffic while dealing with a repeater failure (NCO switches to simplex).
Complications:
Repeater failure occurs midway through the scenario.
An interfering station disrupts the frequency with unintentional noise.
New check-ins unfamiliar with net operations join.
Scenario 2: Localized Emergency (Structure Fire)
Situation: A large fire is spreading in a neighborhood, and the local fire department requests communications support for evacuations.
Objective: Coordinate evacuation notices, health and welfare traffic, and keep the lines open for fire department updates.
Complications:
New check-ins join, asking if family members are safe.
A relay station needs to pass critical information to the HF net for outside support.
Scenario 3: Communications Support for an Event (Community Festival)
Situation: A large community event is taking place, and radio operators are providing logistical support.
Objective: Handle event coordination such as parking, lost persons, and health and welfare messages.
Complications:
An operator experiences equipment failure (handheld battery dies).
Interference from a station near the event, causing signal degradation.
Scenario 4: Severe Weather Event (Tornado Outbreak)
Situation: Multiple tornadoes are reported in the area, and operators are tasked with relaying weather information and damage reports to authorities.
Objective: Coordinate real-time severe weather updates, damage reports, and shelter information to help emergency responders.
Complications:
Net Control experiences a power failure and the ANCO must step in.
Interference and poor propagation make communication difficult.
Scenario 5: Practice Net
Situation: A simulated net practice for all participants, designed to familiarize them with net procedures.
Objective: Practice check-ins, traffic handling, and simulated emergency messaging to build participants' confidence.
Complications:
New check-ins are introduced halfway through.
NCO assigns different tasks to participants, such as traffic handling or simulated emergency messages.
Repeater Failure Protocol:
NCO instructs all participants to switch to a pre-designated simplex frequency.
ANCO monitors both repeater and simplex frequencies and assists where needed.
Participants should attempt to relay messages via the simplex channel.
Handling Interference:
NCO calmly addresses the interfering station, explaining that a formal net is in progress.
If interference continues, NCO instructs participants to move to an alternate frequency.
Relay stations may assist by confirming clean frequencies for communication.

New Check-ins Procedure:
NCO welcomes new operators, briefly explains the net procedures, and confirms their ability to participate.
Assign them simple tasks initially, such as listening for specific reports or checking weather conditions.
This tabletop exercise outline can be adapted depending on the participants' performance and engagement levels. The key is to rotate roles, provide constructive feedback, and ensure all operators get hands-on practice in different net control scenarios.