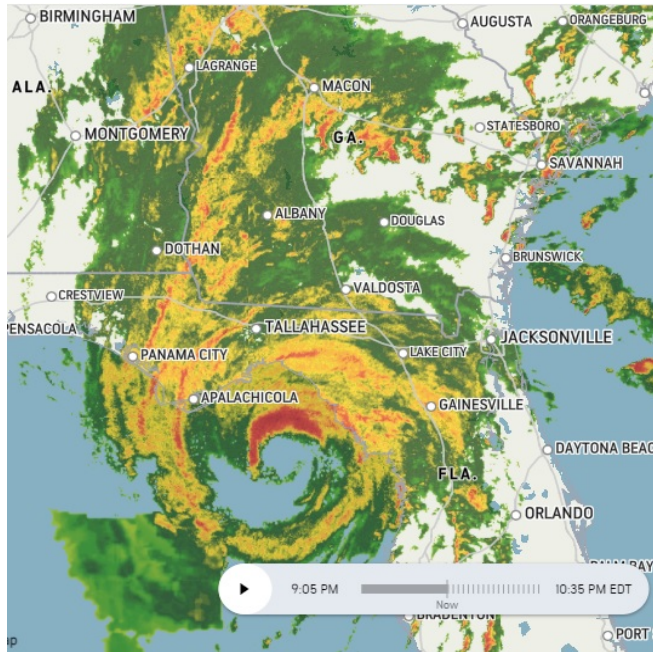


Alachua County AUXCOMM Volunteers Response to Hurricane Helene Sept 25-27, 2024

DRAFT



Florida Radar Map 9:00 PM Thur 9/26/2024

After Action Report/Improvement Plan

HANDLING INSTRUCTIONS

Points of Contact:

Alachua County AUXCOMM Volunteers:

Name: Jeff Capehart
Emergency Coordinator
FCC License: W4UFL

Name: Gordon Gibby MD, Asst. Emergency Coordinator
FCC License: KX4Z
SHARES License: NCS521, NND4FL

Acknowledgment

*This document borrows heavily from the excellent AARIP for Nicole/Ian
that was written by Brett Wallace, NH2KW.*

DRAFT VERSION

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Hurricane Helene rapidly intensified in the latter part of its trek across the Gulf and slammed into the Steinhatchee-Keaton Beach area as a Category 4 hurricane causing major and catastrophic damage. It had moved slightly southward of the projected trajectory through Tallahassee, and away from the very early trajectory predictions that included Alachua County.

Nevertheless, this was a massively-sized storm and Alachua County sustained more damage than we have seen in many recent storms, with large numbers of residents out of power; trees down everywhere.

The storm then moved quickly through Georgia and into North Carolina, causing truly historic flooding and damage in the Appalachian western North Carolina area, with loss of life now known to be above 200 persons. Alachua County by comparison had much less permanent damage and our power outages were largely restored within a week.

Our volunteers performed well, with improvements in expertise. A major loss of power to the TV5 complex left our primary and secondary repeaters out of commission right at the peak of the storm and for many hours after; our team moved quickly to the 146.910 University of Florida repeater which performed surprisingly well. Our planning discussions for potential simplex communications appeared to greatly facilitate the announcement of the plan for moving to the new repeater.

Major Strengths

- Notification from the Emergency Manager's office was timely and significantly in advance of deployment
- Delivery of go-boxes was excellent
- Return of go-boxes did not require our team to handle; all taken care of
- Communication amongst team members (in planning and preparation) was noted as a major strength.
- Voice and data lines of radio communication were maintained continuously through the storm.
- Activated 8 badged volunteers for the hurricane (counting Dave Huckstep also)
- Staffed the EOC with 2 team-members for the majority and 1 for ending.
- Staffed 3 shelters with 1-2 team-members at each location for the hurricane
- Operated net control from a remote location which reduced the burden on the EOC team.
- Continued greatly increased data input from county amateur radio operators outside of normal volunteer group!
- Successful usage of previously developed pre-signed (bitmap) ICS-214s for volunteer effort reporting.

- Successful sign-out and deployment of LiFePO4 charged batteries
- Volunteer assist with deployment of STARLINK and MBK, and recognition of its shortcomings in a wind-related disaster¹
- First testing of 6 meter simplex Single Side Band communications as a possible way to handle distant edges of the County

Primary Areas for Improvement

- There were important amateur radio infrastructure failures or losses during or related to this Incident.

¹ Excellent work by Brett Wallace NH2KW

SECTION 1: RESPONSE OVERVIEW

| | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| Response Name | Hurricane Helene 2024 |
| Response Dates | September 25-27, 2024 |
| Scope | The storms affected multiple jurisdictions. The scope of this AAR/IP is focused on Alachua County AUXCOMM Volunteer response. |
| Mission Area(s) | Response |
| Core Capabilities | Operational Communication, ² Planning, Information Sharing, Public Information, and Community Resilience ³ |
| Objectives | <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Safety of volunteers and community2. Property safety3. Backup communications4. Practice communications protocols including Field Situation Report5. Test 6 meter SSB if possible6. Everyone deployed successfully submit signed ICS-214's |
| Threat or Hazard | High winds, flooding |
| Scenario | Category 4 Hurricane |
| Sponsor | Mother Nature |
| Participating Organizations | DHS/FEMA, Florida DEM, Alachua County Office of Emergency Management, North Florida ARES ®, Alachua County ARES ® Volunteers. |
| Point of Contact | Gordon Gibby, MD, KX4Z, docvacuumtubes@gmail.com |

2 https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/2020-07/fema_ESF_2_Communications.pdf

3 <https://www.fema.gov/emergency-managers/national-preparedness/mission-core-capabilities>

Disaster Planning Team

Jeff Capehart W4UFL
Gordon L. Gibby KX4Z
Leland Gallup AA3YB
David Huckstep W4JIR

Active Volunteers

Leland Gallup AA3YB- Alachua County EOC (ESF #2)
Jeff Capehart W4UFL - Alachua County EOC (ESF #2)
Gordon L. Gibby KX4Z- Alachua County EOC (ESF#2)
David Huckstep W4JIR- Alachua County Net Control Station
Earl McDow K4ZSW - Backup VHF Net Control
Susan Halbert KG4VWI- MLK Shelter (ESF#6)
Rosemary Jones KI4QBZ - MLK Shelter (ESF#6)
Dean Covey KV4RL - Senior Center/Special Needs (ESF #6)
Brett Wallace NH2KW - Easton-Newberry Shelter (ESF#6)
Eric Pleace KO4ZSD- Courier
A large number of ad-hoc community ham radio operators who made reports into our response.

SECTION 2: DISASTER RESPONSE PLAN DESIGN SUMMARY

Disaster Response Plan Purpose and Design

The purpose of the Alachua County AUXCOMM Volunteers is to support the Alachua County Office of Emergency Management by providing auxiliary communication in the event that phone and internet communications are interrupted.

The Incident Action Plan (IAP):

Our team maintains a consensus-developed Communications Plan, which can be reviewed at: <https://www.nf4rc.club/comms-plan-2/>. A simple IAP was created as an ICS-201 Briefing Document combined with an IC-205, prior to deployment. A second IAP was produced after deployment, and a third IAP for demobilization. This was the largest number of individual IAPs we have ever produced in one incident.

Incident Command System / Leadership

The Alachua County AUXCOMM Volunteers are task organized under the Emergency Support Function #2 (Communications⁴).

Jeff Capehart is the Emergency Coordinator. Gordon Gibby created the IAPs. Leland Gallup (Level III) , assisted by Jeff Capehart (Level II) , provided staffing for the EOC radio room during Hurricane Helene.

⁴ <https://www.fema.gov/pdf/emergency/nrf/nrf-esf-intro.pdf>

SECTION 3: TIMELINE AND EVENTS

| TIME (DATE) | EVENT | COMMENT |
|--------------------|---|--|
| 8PM Monday Sept 23 | First Hurricane Net- | We held this hurricane net EARLY in hopes of getting our volunteers lined up. This was successful with estimates of the following availability: Tom Cox NK3F Available (but not badged) Rosemary KI4QBZ - available Dean covey KV4RL - available Susan KG4VWI - available Earl K4ZSW - home duty Gordon KX4Z - avail if school closes Brett NH2KW - text message, avail. Hugh Minnich - would like to help, not yet badged (our delay) |
| Tue Sept 24 | First IAP released | Confidential information to those deploying for security purposes. Expectation at this time was a Thursday landfall. |
| Tue Sept 24 | Initial Deployment Schedule | The initial deployment schedule was for 4PM Wednesday, due to thought that the hurricane would make travel difficult early on Friday. As the weather forecasts changed, we realized this was an unnecessary night in a shelter and the EM agreed. |
| Wed Sept 25 | 2nd IAP Released Deployment time has been changed to before 9AM Thursday Sept 26 | A consistent URL was used for IAPs. The IAP #2 remains up at: https://www.nf4rc.club/current-hurricane-helene-incident-action-plan-public-version/ |
| Thur Sept 26 | Actual deployment of all volunteers prior to 9AM Thur | |
| Thur Sept 26 1000 | First VHF net | |
| Thur Sept 26 2200 | Onset of major winds | in the 60+ mph range in western Alachua County |
| Thur Sept 26 2200 | Loss of power to a) 146.820 repeater / 146.985 | |

| | | |
|-------------|--|--|
| | repeater b) KX4Z radio complex c) Internet cable providing KX4Z complex | |
| Thur 2300 | Move to 146.910 repeater by EOC and all shelters | Surprising successful |
| Thur 2300 | Tentative plan to provide generator power to downed repeaters | |
| Friday 0800 | By this time, power had returned to 146.820 repeater | Extensive damage to trees, power lines -- more than we are used to in hurricanes |
| Friday 1200 | Release of Shelter volunteers | Demobilization |
| Friday 1700 | Shutdown of EOC backup radio room | |

Amateur Radio Infrastructure Failures

| No. | Item | Comment |
|-----|--|---|
| 1 | Power outage at the TV-5 (WUFT) location caused 146.820 and 146.985 repeaters to go off the air at approximately 10 PM at the onset of the major winds of the storm. | At this time, the cause is not known |
| 2 | KX4Z location lost internet and commercial power also at approximately 10 PM. Without commercial power, the cable amplifiers ceased functioning, meaning Internet was lost. The RMS stations went on radio-relay modes, but due to power issues, were turned off approximately 24 hours later. | Internet did not return until a week later |
| 3 | The Gainesville SARNET outlet remains inoperative due to equipment failure on the State side. | No estimate yet of expected return to function. |

NOTE: Amateur radio infrastructure losses were much less in quantity during Helene than in Debby, but included significant repeaters for the first time.

SECTION 4: ANALYSIS OF OBJECTIVES / RESULTS

Aligning exercise objectives and core capabilities provides a consistent taxonomy for evaluation that transcends individual exercises to support preparedness reporting and trend analysis. Table 1 includes the exercise objectives, aligned core capabilities, and performance ratings for each core capability as observed during the exercise and determined by the evaluation team.

Objectives come from our Incident Action Plan.

| Objective | Core Capability | Performed without Challenges (P) | Performed with Some Challenges (S) | Performed with Major Challenges (M) | Unable to be Performed (U) |
|--|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Safety of volunteers and community | Community Resilience ⁵ | P | | | |
| 2. Property Safety | Community Resilience | P | | | |
| 3. Backup communications | Operational Communication | P | | | |
| 4. Practice communication protocols including Field Situation Report | Operational Communication** | | S | | |
| 5. Test 6 Meter SSB | Operational Communication | P | | | |
| 6. Everyone deployed successfully submit signed ICS-214's | | P | | | |

Table 1. Summary of Core Capability Performance

⁵ <https://www.fema.gov/emergency-managers/national-preparedness/mission-core-capabilities>

OBJECTIVE 1:

Safety of volunteers and community

Strengths

Strength: Volunteers were safe in shelters and for the EOC, relief was provided when needed. The IAP included a suggested list of items for deployed volunteers to bring with them, a first for our IAP

Areas for Improvement

Area for Improvement: Still need more volunteers.

OBJECTIVE 2:

Property Safety

Strengths

Strength: All of our gear was properly transported, set-up, utilized, re-packed and transported back again. The community escaped major property damage with the biggest problems being up to 50,000+ households without power at various times.

Areas for Improvement

Area for Improvement: Assist elements of Alachua County governance to communicate effectively regarding the deployment of radio go-boxes.

OBJECTIVE 3:

Backup Communications

Strengths

Strength: Deployment planning was via telephone calls and emails. During the incident, VHF voice was the primary means of communication. We continued to have wonderful involvement of peripheral amateur radio operators, and conducted the first 6 meter SSB simplex trial, with results provided above.

Areas for Improvement

Area for Improvement: All of the means of notification listed in our Comms Plan were not utilized, due to lack of time for planning.

OBJECTIVE 4:

Practice communication protocols including Field Situation Report

Strengths

Strength: We completed a 6 meter SSB test. Peer to Peer Winlink remained operational at the EOC throughout.

Areas for Improvement

Area for Improvement: The majority of our stations, specifically including the EOC, did not have optimal 6-meter antennas. We were generally using whatever HF antenna was available with high losses in feed lines due to high SWRs, "covered up" by antenna tuners. The EOC was unable to hear most stations! If this is to be a solution for simplex, we will need to significantly improve the EOC 6-m antenna situation as well as that of our shelters.

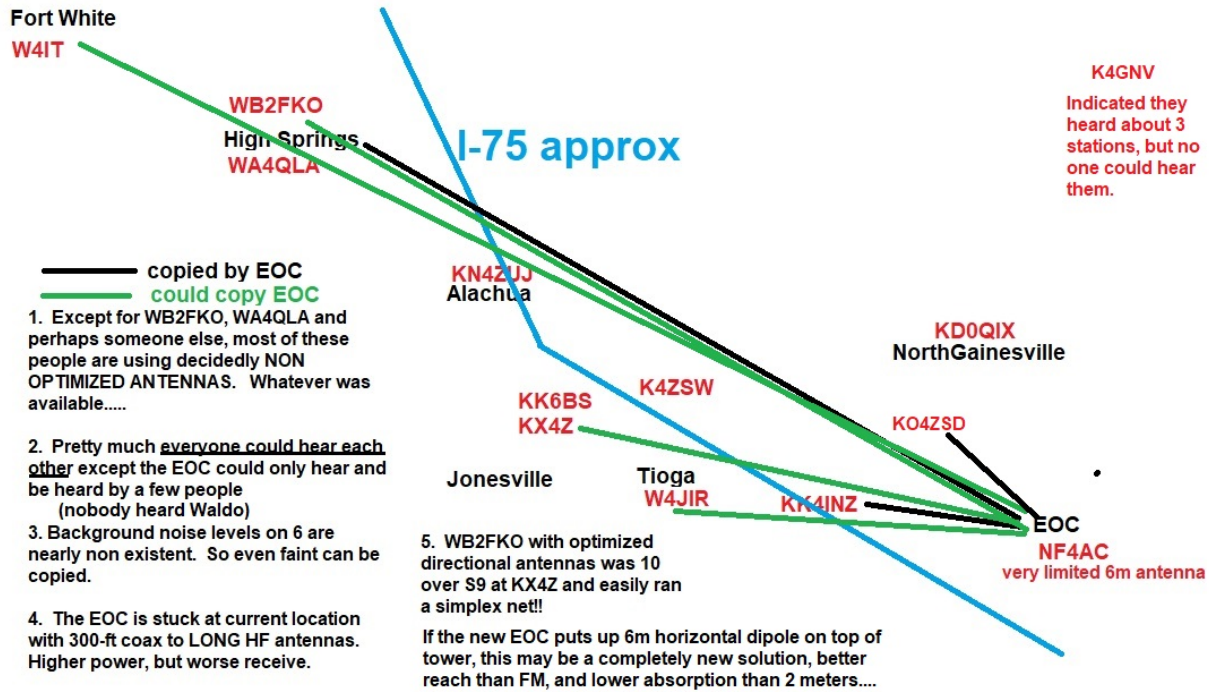


FIGURE: Results of 6 meter SSB Communications Test

OBJECTIVE 5:

Test 6 meter SSB simplex

Strengths

Strength: We completed a very successful 6-meter SSB test demonstrating potential communications from the EOC to edges of the county in at least the NW and NE quadrants.

Areas for Improvement

Area for Improvement: Significant improvement needs to occur to the EOC 6meter capabilities if this is to be a success for them. The same is true of many of our other stations including Shelters.

OBJECTIVE 6:

All deployed volunteers successfully submit signed ICS-214's.

Strengths

Strength: We believe this objective was met.

Areas for Improvement

Area for Improvement: Peripheral and new volunteers were less familiar with the ICS-214 and the Alachua County EOT page for submission.

SECTION 5: CONCLUSION

The Alachua County volunteers had a generally very successful deployment service for the EOC and county shelters during Hurricane Helene. Planning and execution of the deployment was generally well-done, with good interaction between volunteers and Emergency Management Department. The updated Comms Plan and past Improvement Plans that corrected various issues contributed to making this deployment fairly uneventful, and better and numerous IAPs were released.

However, we experienced more repeater failures than we have in a long time. Nevertheless, we responded well and easily transitioned to a highly successful replacement repeater. Since the event, we have learned of additional potential repeaters with widespread coverage; the ICS-205 may need updating.

We were elated at several triumphs: integration of significantly more community volunteer participants into reporting (32 different stations); the first 6meter SSB test during an actual event.

With significant damage to trees and power throughout the county, the shelters housed up to 92 people, and remained open for several days. However, our volunteers were released in a timely fashion when communication threats had largely abated. The value of our volunteer effort exceeded \$20,000.

The event revealed some weaknesses that can be addressed and provided another wonderful opportunity for new relationships with leaders in the county who stopped by to chat at the EOC backup radio room.

ARES(R) Amateur radio volunteers provided 27 hours of service at each of three shelters, with a total of 4 volunteers in that effort; and 32 hours of deployed service total at the EOC, a total of 140 volunteer hours. Assuming \$20/hr & match of 8:1 this could result in \$22,400 in reimbursement for Alachua County.

APPENDIX A

IMPROVEMENT PLAN

| No. | Finding | Remedy | Assigned to | Target Completion |
|-----|--|---|--------------|--|
| 1 | Loss of power to 146.820 / 146.985 repeaters despite backup generator on WUFT campus | Find out from GARS Repeater Committee what was the issue and offer to assist if battery backup or generator backup is deemed appropriate. | | |
| 2 | Team Depth | Promote volunteerism and willingness to deploy so that potential volunteers are aware of the opportunity and make arrangements to overcome obstacles | | |
| 3 | Unfamiliarity with how to submit 214's Was supposed to be on boiler plate IAPs (wasn't) | Create educational page to remind, include with IAP; another session to develop bit-mapped signatures is needed Add back to boiler-plate IAP and store prominently | Both DONE | DONE |
| 4 | Maps didn't make it to the shelters | Add a map to the go-boxes | | This has been done for the ones that were deployed (and subsequently checked for completeness) |
| 5 | Unfamiliarity with the go-box VHF radio | Provide a "cheat sheet" of suggestions and instructions, boiler-plate, within the IAP | DONE | DONE |

| No. | Finding | Remedy | Assigned to | Target Completion |
|-----|--|---|-------------|--|
| 6 | Everbridge notification list needs to be updated | Leland to update | Leland | |
| 7 | Only Leland knows how to initiate Everbridge | Have Leland cross train people | | |
| 8 | TV in backup radio room is not connected to anything | See if we can get it connected to at least on-the-air stations | | |
| 9 | Box 4 shore power connector INOP | Test and seek repair | | |
| 10 | Inability to run ALE at same time as local nets | A solution would be to add a >5MHz High Pass Filter option to our Antenna Multiplexer | | This will require some time and effort to build. |
| 11 | Difficulty finding road closure information. FL511.COM may not be fully up to date. EOC has manual process for entering | Attempt to find better source or improve mapping protocols | | |
| 12 | ICS-205 does not include the 146.910 repeater, nor a new possible county-wide UHF voice repeater, nor the new KC4NWK-10 county-wide packet RMS | Update the ICS-205 after consensus discussion with ARES(R) volunteers | | Information being gathered |
| 13 | | | | |
| 14 | | | | |
| 15 | | | | |
| 16 | | | | |
| 17 | | | | |

APPENDIX B

HOTWASH DOCUMENTATION

HOTWASH COMMENTS

Hurricane Helene
Sept 28, 2024

Earl thinks the best thing he did for David was paperwork and spreadsheet and occasionally stepping in when he needed help --- Earl lost TWO antennas on soffit on his house.

Leland: From the EOC he heard a good job by ALL our net, especially net control (Dave etc) – Dave was doing great martialing the cats – Brett got the Starlink and the MBK working when their internet wasn't working so great --- earned MANY POINTS in EM view for his technical expertise.

Jeff did a GREAT job communicating with the net which freed up Leland. Gordon did a bunch of documentation. Leland' Everbridge qualification needs to update/improve the list. At the EOC – ability to get oversight over situations (road closure from public service) is poor and we have trouble connecting; it doesn't show on Monday .com so we can't get a spreadsheet. We did find it on a webpage but not sure it was up to date. Jeff pointed out 511.com which was GREAT. 2 in the EOC was a huge help – no more, not enough room. Allows two places at once.

820 repeater – trustees at GARS will likely look into why the power failed. Not sure why their generator failed (their TV station went off the air also!!) – why didn't the 820 come back, and why did it finally come back on? We showed a LOT of agility and nimbleness which really impressed Chief Theus and Mary Alford (Board of County Commissioners) County manager and Board of county commissioners chair there the whole time, very impressed.

Need to work out protocol between the ACFR and Sheriff on notification on the go-box transport.

Suggest that we inventory – make consistent – what is in the go-boxes..... (a lot of work!)

This was a SHORT duration event – activated 3 shelters. Very likely we could have had to activate more (discussions in policy groups) We don't have Backup – in a longer duration event, slow moving storm with lots of flooding and troublesome aftermath – volunteers will be unable to keep going. Need to find, train and motivate people to join in!!

Overall – this Team has done a LOT in the last 4-5 years. Good crew, operated together without egos getting into the way; carried out all requests (EM appreciates). From his history of teams in stress – this was WELL DONE.

Jeff – Made sure generator was set up out of garage for Susan to make it easy for her to get generator going with extension cords etc – put her mind more at ease. Some flickering of power but did not lose power.

Background: In Alachua County top population 92 in the shelters; we were watching power outages before the county started showing them – so we were able to give County reports – (for the state of Florida) Storm in Florida, 11 killed, total 56 so far and still going up. This was NOT a “nothing-burger storm”. 40” of rain at one point up in the mountains.

Storm surge was huge on the coast but we got 2-4 inches. Storm surge originally forecasted to be 9 feet (record in Cedar key) – forecast hit 15-20 – the numbers of actual place were 30-40% above the RECORD storm surge.

15 Participants at this time

St. Pete – huge movement of beach sand.

National weather service – top wind gust was 110 mph in Alma Georgia.
(because the storm moved so FAST up (Gordon))

Maps that we did training on – didn’t make it into the Go boxes so people didn’t get them – map on county site is “buried” – but doesn’t show very many roads and doesn’t work that well – uses Ezri (cloud hosted GIS mapping system) – different map than the one the county uses for trees down. Public works and 911 interact on that. Personnel matter – can’t get fixed.

Leland – road closure team passes information to public service (Leo and fire) – general public doesn’t have access. Have to use 511 to get visibility of road closures at this time.

511 is updated by Florida DOT; not sure if includes all roads. Not sure if it includes input from public. (can get there by telephone, number 511) May be mainly state roads) (Don’t know?) It is more oriented toward travel. Keith Godwin stopped by and thought his license was good (license issue) willing to offer anything we needed – he has TOWERS!!! Keith Godwin is in charge of the 911 system (not the communication center) – may have insight into this. Director of 911 system. May be able to provide access to 300 foot tower!!!! Working with us since about 2010, was the ESF2 lead.

TV – inside our radio room; cable hookup up but NO SIGNAL. Would be nice to get broadcast TV. WXJ60 was also off the air (0 watts). No way to set up tornado warnings. We provided this to Emergency Management. Confirmed NOAA Weather radio. (Something to ask for in the New EOC) Could possibly use net to get confirmation

EOC – takes a while to realize signal went dead – 82 off the air. So Jeff put a radio on 82 revers and was able to give instructions – shelters got instructions that way. So we need to have someone listening on the simplex also (yet another radio!!) Possibly turn on SCANNING????

Gordon: the GMRS radio can scan that - it already scans gmrs plus the

We didn’t miss the SARNET..... (would have died with power also)

Jeff: need to talk to someone in GARS to find out what are they aware of with the repeater failure – GRU map shows substation that feeds that.....4 different system (AMI) events posted, 2000 customers each; this restored power to the repeater site. Jeff’s mom was out of power.

Ron: Chief Godwin over 911 and GIS. Previous GIS mapping she retired. Gordon: line went to Jax. Question: individuals at home; lots of people coming up on net; newcomers, great. Ron couldn't leave mother-in law. Does input get relayed to 511 or anyone else?? Leland: not aware of any mechanism for US to receive reports and send to the road closure source; they prefer to have input from THEIR systems, 911, public works.... But what happens when the phones are dead??? We have NO METHOD for efficiently routing that kind of information. (Forms, procedures, manpower???) Something to look into. Jeff: we used to do just that in WebEOC, but now we can't. With Monday.com the cost is per person using it, so adding us would be EXPENSIVE. Road closure doesn't feed it into Monday.com anyway..... Fire Dept and 911 has to cover expenses and thus the GIS died.

Gordon: if we made a form for the case that everything dies, we could hand them the form, would that help? JEFF: We could ask those folks – but during the EVENT they are busy doing all kinds of coordination, tunnel vision can't talk during hurricane. During the paper system they had way too much paper. Need way for multiple people to input to the system. (Database?)

Barbara: Was on tachachale campus; Thursday; Baofeng; could hear everything; 400 acre campus; 6 miles 2nd question: how were communications with waldo when repeater went down? Not sure there was anyone there at then.

Earl: in visit to Marion county – radio room with 8 stations; might want to talk to Carl how to get information handed off the people who want to do something about; they generate a form and hand it to the “pit boss” and it goes from there. Gordon: our professionals DEPEND on computers. Leland: complacency because the cell phones were so resilient. EOC had internet and power the entire thing.

Ron – lot of people lost internet, or power. No internet, no coax cable; (Gordon same: Cox repeater is without power) GMRS tower – on same tower as 82 repeater. So it went down also.

Gordon: need to add BATTERY BACKUP or figure out generators. Ron could barely hear the EOC at 6 meters. Not much working for him in downtown Alachua. No internet.

Jeff: county relies on Internet to reach the public. County put out 240,000 phone calls. Contracted this out. Came from “questionable Spam” – how many people ignored them?

Gordon: Thanks to LELAND for doing some EVERBRIDGE for us.

Ron: reverse 911 works well, apparently they were using a secondary server for this. Once the phone box for the EOC got hit by a car and took out the EOC communications!!!! They need some way to handle data coming in forums.

Eric: Comment about EOC radio room being able to listen on so many frequencies. E.G. difficult to scan when

Gordon ALE: need to have some sort of “above 5 MHz” to allow simultaneously scanning

Leland: left in the simultaneously Data – this WORKED == people were able to send in peer to peer to the EOC. Good idea to leave it. Gordon: think we solved our looping problem.

Gordon: lifepo4 batteries would provide some backup.

Brett – (bandwidth issues) was really pleased with how the NCS moved out of the EOC; Dave has stamina and patience more than most; The mobile broad band kit and Starlink – hurricane during storm – he thought they were out of their mind...but winds here aren't normally that high, and IT WORKED. Shelter was ONLY working off internet, can't take checkins without the internet. He thinks they need to be less reliant on systems that are so vulnerable. Of course, we do what is asked. Shifting schedule – reports on the nets, very happy that people were agile and changed the deployment time to be more realistic, to decrease the burnout factor; nets ended at 9 or 10 and if a problem, people still responded. But not having hourly check ins very helpful, made it easier for him to help at the shelter not tied down.

Brett hear DAVE tell them to go to 91 – (Dave must have been transmitting on 82 output for that to work (Gordon)) – lot of the net traffic could have gone over text – long time on the radio might have been done easier on text.

Please mark 0 Box 4 shore power/battery switch didn't work – he made it work from the battery port – but the switchover thing didn't seem to work.

Improvement: 6 meters didn't work from Newberry – he had a 30 foot random wire with SSB and 100 watt radio – wasn't horizontal? Building was in between the antennas, a potential big problem. Like the idea, but it didn't work for him. (Try again?)

Eric: need antenna tuner (Brett – 991 has internal tuner)

Brett: VARA VHF Winlink – unable to send a 214, PDF couldn't send – try the.. .docx the next time (Gordon)

Calls from folks around – second what Ron said, with lots of offers of help etc. David very patient. Call 911 if you have an immediate emergency – but for cell down, we need to have a way to help people. Side roads not of significance to EOC. Life issues immediately important.

The only ICS method for sending message is 213. If we fill out a 213 to whomever is filling out map, we have done our part.

If we get “apps” then that is an additional thing we could help out with; but what we've seen over and over is that technology fails and need “analog” the ICS 213.

Even the hybrid EOC is still in the ICS system.....so would recognize ics213.

Susan: (on telephone) thanks to Jeff for the WEATHER REPORTS – people in shelter would sit and listen because they hear more authoritative than the weather man – finally got this to happen!! Thank you to David for net control; experience in sheriff office gave very wise answers. Thanks to Gordon for organizing; Go boxes worked beautifully, were deployed in timely manner. Problem we had at first were because the hybrid plug that wires both digital and speaker wasn't “pushed in right” – when pushed in the 2nd time it worked!! Recommend a label on the Gob ox which which side is UP. Movers asked about that. Problem if upside down?

Battery hookup should have “battery IN” instead of just battery

One of the blue ties seemed missing..

thanks to all for working on the road closure map idea. Sounds like something that is going to be much more successful. Law enforcement also didn't have any information....surprising.

Repeater issues: have to deal with; she thought the 82 was on generator; in hurricane friends had to cart a generator there to run it. Back then it had a battery back up also.

Gordon: First time we used the 91 repeater!!! Big success!!

Waldo: were there fires outside the community center, wires arching??? Larry/Shannon said some kind of arc going on and shutting down; 9:30 PM. (Shannon on radio)

Susan: need to continue to work on road closure map. Work on getting repeater power. Find some way to make the EOC succeed without Internet. We need to have solution. ?? up our microwave capability?

Susan: would like to see Craig Fugate give us information about relevant preparation for Alachua County.

Hugh: monitoring other frequencies; on the last two storms, people who can't get to shelter but listening on air; could be assigned to check on the repeater each time? (delete!!) Simplex test coming up – different hubs. Going into next simplex, should have people assigned who can be the monitor of frequency in various quadrants. Hugh heard Gordon so went to 91, programmed radio etc. Hugh was trying to listen to 55 in case someone there. Better to assign people. This time thought net went a lot smoother this time. Really well. Will bring up questions at next board meeting.

Manish: Question – can we add a portable wind generator to the repeater??? (Would work well during hurricane)

Pete Garfinkeoy KQ4QWJ – used to be a sotrm spotter in the west; kudos to the net control for great.

Jeff: 300 trees down took them 3 minutes to in each report. Six hours to put in reports. 985 repeater used to have a controller that would adjust the repeater message courtesy tone CW that would give our PF so you know on BATTERY. There was no clue of batter (if any battery). Important clue if on battery. Dave did great job; someone kept offering help, thought we could assign him to cut trees down or something? Out of our wheelhouse. “Bystander” who just doesn't know our involvement. Generally emergency management frowns on anyone running around trying to “do things” during the storm like “taking pictures” or “wear radio or badge” – hat is NOT going to “look good”

Jeff:

Correct website is FL511.com not 511.com

APPENDIX C

SELECTED PORTIONS OF INITIAL DEPLOYMENT INCIDENT ACTION PLAN, ARES(R) VOLUNTEERS

(BEGINS NEXT PAGE)

INCIDENT BRIEFING (ICS 201) (FOR ARES (R))

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| 1. Incident Name: Helene - 2024 | 2. Incident Number: 2024-2 | 3. Date/Time Initiated: Date: 9/25 Time: 1200LOC |
| 4. Map/Sketch (include sketch, showing the total area of operations, the incident site/area, impacted and threatened areas, overflight results, trajectories, impacted shorelines, or other graphics depicting situational status and resource assignment): | | |
| SHELTERS (CONFIDENTIAL UNTIL AT LEAST 4PM) | | |
| EAST: (farthest from storm) MLK Center (opening Wednesday 4PM) 1028 NE 14th Street Gainesville, FL 32601 | | |
| WEST: (storm side) Easton Archery (opening Wednesday 4PM) (accessed from US 27-41 aka SR45) 24880 NW 16th Avenue Newberry, FL 32669 | | |
| SPECIAL NEEDS Senior Recreation Center 5701 NW 34th Blvd. Gainesville, FL 32653 Opening Wed Noon | | |
| EOC: opening Wed 0700 Radio Crew arriving 11AM | | |
| | | |
| 5. Situation Summary and Health and Safety Briefing (for briefings or transfer of command): Recognize potential incident Health and Safety Hazards and develop necessary measures (remove hazard, provide personal protective equipment, warn people of the hazard) to protect responders from those hazards. | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Predicted MAJOR HURRICANE approaching Big Bend area of Florida. • Three Alachua County shelters opening • ARES(R) badged volunteers deployed to staff; command net & HF net opening for backup communications; EOC staffed with communications volunteer(s) • University of Florida - CLOSED THURSDAY • Santa Fe - CLOSED THURSDAY AND FRIDAY • Alachua County Public Schools - CLOSED THURSDAY AND FRIDAY • Names of Shelters to be released WHEN SHELTERS OPENED • Alachua County Update7: <i>Torrential rains are forecast to bring 3 to 6 inches of precipitation. This will lead to a heightened risk of flash flooding in urban and low-lying areas, particularly around local rivers and streams.</i> | | |

| | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|--|
| 1. Incident Name: Helene - 2024 | 2. Incident Number: 2024-2 | 3. Date/Time Initiated: Date: 9/25 Time: 1200LOC |
| 6. Prepared by: Name: G. Gibby _____ Position/Title: Vol _____ Signature: _____ | | |
| ICS 201, Page 1 | | Date/Time: 9/25/2024 _____ |

INCIDENT BRIEFING (ICS 201)

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| 1. Incident Name: | 2. Incident Number: | 3. Date/Time Initiated: Date: Time: |
| 7. Current and Planned Objectives: | | |
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Safety of volunteers and community 2. Property safety 3. Backup communications 4. Practice communications protocols including Field Situation Report 5. Test 6 meter SSB if possible 6. Everyone deployed successfully submit signed ICS-214's | | |
| 8. Current and Planned Actions, Strategies, and Tactics: | | |
| Time: | Actions: | |
| WED | | |
| 11AM | Start of ham support at EOC | |
| 4-5PM | Start of ham support at SHELTERS | |
| 8PM | Alachua County VHF NET; monitor frequency afterwards | |
| 8PM | Alachua County HF NET; monitor frequency afterwards | |
| 10PM | Quiet Time | |
| THU | | |
| 0530 | Please take status of your shelter | |
| 0600 | Alachua County VHF NET; repeat at 1-2 hour intervals as appears appropriate | |
| | Please keep VHF frequency monitored for requests for assistance | |
| 0800 | Alachua County HF NET; please keep frequency monitored and occasionally | |
| | occupied for potential checkins or requests for assistance | |
| | Further instructions to follow in later IAP Update | |
| | | |

| | | |
|--|----------------------------|---|
| 1. Incident Name: | 2. Incident Number: | 3. Date/Time Initiated: Date: _____ Time: _____ |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| 6. Prepared by: Name: G. Gibby _____ Position/Title: _____ Signature: _____ | | |
| ICS 201, Page 2 | | Date/Time: 9/25/2024 - 1200 LOC _____ |

INCIDENT BRIEFING (ICS 201)

| | | |
|---|----------------------------|---|
| 1. Incident Name: | 2. Incident Number: | 3. Date/Time Initiated: Date: _____ Time: _____ |
| 9. Current Organization (fill in additional organization as appropriate) | | |
| Distributed organization | | |
| Net control stations work to stay in communication with opposite net, please. | | |
| Location / Effort | Personnel | Comment |
| EOC staffing | Leland, Jeff | |
| VHF Net | David, Earl McDow | trade-off as needed |
| HF Net | Waldo EOC Radio Room | Please forward reports to VHF net |
| Senior Center | Dean | May need relief at some point |
| MLK | Susan / Rosemary | trade-off as needed |
| Easton Newberry | Brett | May need relief at some point |
| @Home volunteers | Multiple | Managing local comms systems, helper stations, etc. |

INCIDENT BRIEFING (ICS 201)

APPENDIX: SUGGESTIONS FOR SHELTER DEPLOYMENT

1. Bring something **SOFT** to sleep on, because at best you will have a carpeted floor
2. Bring your **PILLOW** to be more comfortable
3. Shelters can get **COLD**, so bring jacket/coat/blanket(s) to stay comfortable
4. Bring a **FLASHLIGHT** because their generator may be balky
5. Bring snacks and any comfort refreshments - they may have food but it may be "Spartan" and the drink machine may empty quickly. Things that you can eat "right out of the can" our bag, and a plastic utensil or two would be very wise. Don't make a mess in your room.
6. Consider eye-shade and/or earplugs if you have difficulty sleeping. Some of the "light switches" are motion activated and will turn back **ON** when you toss and turn at night.
7. **PHOTO** of the room you will work in before you start -- so you can put **EVERYTHING BACK THE WAY IT WAS**. Please be considerate of the people whose office you are using.
8. Pens, etc. You're going to need to do paperwork
9. Paper and especially ICS-214 forms so the County gets \$\$\$\$ from your work.
10. Pre-signed word-processor ICS-214 would be really, really smart.
11. Your computer and power supply, and your Signalink if you have one
12. Your phone and **CHARGER**
13. A few **RG8x** or other **COAX JUMPERS**. A barrel connector would be very smart.
14. Your own Lifepo4 battery would be smart
15. **GET TO KNOW THE SHELTER WORKERS** -- Introduce yourself and go sit with them some. Offer to help in any way you can. Be friendly!!
16. **BE NEAT. BE CONSIDERATE. BE FRIENDLY.**

APPENDIX D

ESTIMATES OF MATCHING DEVELOPED BY ARES(R) SERVICE

| # | Incident | Deployed Hours | Estimated Reimbursement |
|---|------------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 | 2022 Hurricane Nicole ⁶ | 72 deployed hours | \$ 8,640 |
| 2 | 2023 Hurricane Idalia | 41 deployed hours | \$ 6,500 |
| 3 | 2024 Hurricane Debby | 165 deployed hours | \$24,000 |
| 4 | 2024 Hurricane Helene | 140 deployed hours | \$22,400 |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | TOTAL ESTIMATE | 418 deployed hours | \$61,540 |

6 Nicole: we had two shelters plus the EOC covered by deployed volunteers from 4 PM Wednesday Nov 9 2022 through at least 4 PM Thursday Nov 10, 2022 for 72 hours of deployed service @ \$15/hour 8:1 = \$8,640