

Hurricane Milton Emergency Communications Inclusivity Exercises

Introduction

As a nation, we have all come a long ways from the days of the 1930's when merely to have a RADIO was quite unique and all by itself extremely helpful in disasters. These days, every public service officer has a \$5,000 radio on their person and access to exceptional communications.

Government has put huge resources into emergency response, which in Florida is centered on county government response. It is great that you would like to be helpful, but it is even better if you can "fit into" the current systems and be ready to be a part of an organized response.

The ideas and exercises below are designed to help you or your group join into the response systems

Suggested Exercises

Try one or more of these exercises!

You can **report your progress** along the way,
or at the end (whichever is your pleasure)

at the following google form (no google password required):

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfI0YHTG96IIPOKhwxx8NjRYiSkxs20gJdlb1VSbr4vTrqEmA/viewform?vc=0&c=0&w=1&flr=0>

- Skim through the "Incident Action Plan" of the local ham radio group affiliated with Alachua County Emergency Management to see what their plans are -- you don't have to read it word for word, but it is full of details of how we support emergency shelters and potential backup communications with other counties and the State of Florida: <https://www.nf4rc.club/initial-public-aresr-iap/>
- Check into one of our recurrent "command nets" -- you'll hear them throughout the day on the 146.820 MHz repeater (tone 123.0 required). Information announcements and check-ins from staffed shelters are handled, and also check-ins from community amateur radio operators.
- Crank up your WINLINK skills and send us a "Field Situation Report.txt" report to NF4AC@winlink.org (that's the callsign we use at the Alachua County Emergency Operations Center). You can find this extensive situational report by creating a new message, selecting to use a template, expanding the "standard templates" and looking under the "MAPPING-GIS-FORMS" Use your cell phone or GPS to get your real latitude and longitude (remember the longitude is negative, right?) and enter those instead of the less-accurate grid square, and fill out the form with real information. Include your TELEPHONE NUMBER in 12. Additional Comments. Put your name in as the "point of contact" for #13. Send it to NF4AC using whatever you can manage -- telnet (the regular internet), or peer-to-peer FM VARA on 144.990 to NF4AC, or regular WINLINK by any radio means. If your status changes, send us a new one with information on whatever utility failed (or tree came through your roof!). We are able to put together GIS maps of all these kinds of reports. This is a way to provide "eyes and ears" to the County if they lose their other communications system.

- Join us as we test out Jon Simond's UHF repeater for its local coverage map at 1 PM on Wednesday (and possibly at other later times): 444.5875 MHz, +5MHz, Tone 123.0
- If you know how to use PACKET (AX.25) -- give a try at sending us a short message over Jon's new PACKET RMS on the 145.070 local Gainesville packet frequency. Connect to KC4NWK-10 and send a winlink message to NF4AC
- Skim through what the ARRL would like hams like you to work on to gain proficiencies at emergency service -- you can find the document here: https://www.arrl.org/files/file/Public_Service/ARES/ARRL-ARES-FILLABLE-TRAINING-TASK-BOOK-V2_1_1.pdf Florida hams have a more specific one for our State, which you can review here: <https://www.nf4rc.club/how-to-docs/county-ares-docs/fl-ares-taskbook/>
- If you don't already have one, get a free FEMA Student ID here: <https://cdp.dhs.gov/femasid/register> This allows you to start taking some free short courses on aspects of our national response system, so you can be part of the system, instead of reinventing the wheel!
- With your FEMA Student ID in hand, you can start off with a very simple course, such as IS-100: <https://training.fema.gov/is/courseoverview.aspx?code=IS-100.c&lang=en> This just goes over the amazing system that began with California wildfire fighters, saved a ton of lives, and became the national standard for how to throw together an entire response system in a matter of hours.

Some other goals:

- We would like to make contact between the Alachua County backup radio station (NF4AC) and other county or organization radio stations** -- make a connection to us from your group or County by HF, VHF, winlink, SLERS or any other technique!
- If you represent a large college or a county, apply to get a FREE S.H.A.R.E.S. federal license that gives you access to a slew of non-QRM federal frequencies for official response in disaster. We can help you apply! Needs a signature from a government official (or other high official) to validate your request. Here is the (confusing) form: https://www.cisa.gov/sites/default/files/publications/SHARES_Form_1.pdf But we can help you jump through the red tape in 24-48 hours! Contact us for help!

THANKS for jumping in and trying out new things!!

73,

Gordon KX4Z NCS521 NND4FL