



## **Radio Relay International REACT International**

### **Joint Emergency Exercise - 12 May 2018** *Revision 1*

#### **Background:**

Situational awareness data is of significant value to government and relief agencies. Timely information, particularly when provided in a dynamic and responsive manner to an unfolding emergency situation, enhances the capacity to stage resources, anticipate needs and focus the initial damage assessment efforts needed to facilitate a measured and focused relief operation.

In recent years, the 24-hour news cycle and social media culture have resulted in the misconception that considerable real-time data is available. However, for situational awareness information to be relevant, it must be obtained from vetted resources that are known to be reliable. Hearsay and rumor must be eliminated to the greatest extent possible.

Trained and vetted resources affiliated with emergency services, relief agencies and NGOs offer reliable sources of situational awareness data. Amateur Radio operators registered with responsible organizations certainly fall into the “reliable” category. They also incorporate a survivable communications infrastructure that is less likely to result in “holes” within the situational picture.

Because radio amateurs are already dispersed within a disaster area, operators are encouraged to activate nets in order to provide SITREP data during significant emergency events.

#### **Operational Methodology:**

For a SITREP to be valid, certain criteria must be met:

1. The date and time the event was observed must be known.
2. The location of the observer must be known.
3. The boundaries of the event being reported must be known.
4. The event must be witnessed, verified or otherwise confirmed. Hearsay must be avoided.
5. The event must be sufficiently important to contribute to the overall understanding of the situation, rather than simply adding data to an informational “noise floor.”

*Radiogram format supports many of these requirements:*

- Place or origin: Location of observer.
- Time of origin: Time event occurred or was observed.
- Address: Agencies to which the SITREP should be routed.
- Signature: Individual (and agency) responsible for submitting the report.
- A consistent message format makes it easy to parse data either manually or automatically.

Because SITREPs are of value during any disaster situation ranging from technological disasters to terrorist attacks and natural disaster incidents, Radio Relay International will be emphasizing SITREP reporting in a variety of future exercises utilizing scenarios, which fit into any of the above categories.

### **Exercise Scenario:**

The Second Quarter, 2018 Exercise will feature a hurricane event. This is a *drill* type of exercise designed to test a specific function and in doing so, it is intended to familiarize the Amateur Radio community with SITREP reporting methods and net procedures.

The scenario is essentially a “subject matter” activity in which operators and EMCOMM groups are encouraged to submit SITREP reports based on a hurricane scenario. **The exercise is open to radio amateurs in those states bordering the Gulf of Mexico or Eastern Seaboard. Operators are encouraged to originate two exercise radiogram messages:**

1. Weather data report radiogram
2. SITREP radiogram

The methods for formatting these messages are contained within the Radio Relay International Tropical Storm Net (TSN) Guidelines available at:

<http://radio-relay.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/RRI-Tropical-Storm-Network-SOGs-Final-Approved-2018-3-Rev-1.pdf>

While the subject matter is that of a hurricane scenario, please keep in mind that the same basic methodology applies to any widespread, national-level disaster.

### **Exercise Message Originations:**

Because this exercise is designed to familiarize radio operators with the format of both tropical storm reports and SITREPs, the exercise will not be timed. All messages should be originated as “Test Priority” messages but may be originated via any of the following methods:

- Scheduled CW or voice traffic net.
- Digital Traffic Net

- Winlink-2000 using RF to originate the message.

If using Winlink, the radiogram should be treated as follows:

- Email to: [james.wades@radio-relay.org](mailto:james.wades@radio-relay.org)
- Subject (example): QTC 1 TP TSN
- Insert radiogram as plaintext in body of e-mail. Use all caps.

### **IATN Watch Frequencies:**

During a major disaster operation, RRI CW watch (QSX) frequencies may be activated. For the purposes of this exercise, *staffing of these watch frequencies will not be scheduled*. However, when available to do so, RRI CW operators are encouraged to QSX the following frequencies for 10 minutes at the top of the hour to accept exercise traffic or to expedite traffic flow between nets/areas when available to do so:

7115 kHz  
10115 kHz  
14115 kHz

### **Message Origination Time Frame:**

Messages may be originated on any network between 0001Z on May 12 (UTC) and 0230Z on May 13 (UTC). For the purposes of this exercise, the time of origin should reflect the time at which the message was injected into the network.

### **Exception to Message Address:**

*Please note the following exception to the default Tropical Storm Net SOG!*

For the purposes of this exercise, append the following address to all messages:

RRI NECC  
James Wades WB8SIW  
Marion, IL. 62959

**Example Messages:**

Weather Data Report:

**22 TP W4ABC 10 MYRTLE BEACH SC 1300Z MAY 12  
NWS LTX  
RRI NECC  
JAMES WADES WB8SIW  
MARION IL 62959  
<BT>  
EXERCISE X HORRY COUNTY RAIN  
6R50 WIND 47/65 PRESSURE 29R34  
<BT>  
WILLIAMS**

SITREP Radiogram:

**23 TP W4ABC 20 MYRTLE BEACH SC 2130Z MAY 12  
FEMA NWS LTX  
RRI NECC  
JAMES WADES WB8SIW  
MARION IL 62959  
<BT>  
EXERCISE X SITREP HORRY COUNTY  
X STATE HIGHWAY 23 IMPASSIBLE  
BETWEEN ROUTE 10 AND US  
HIGHWAY 51 DUE TO WASHOUT  
<BT>  
WENDEL WILLKE**