



12 September 2018
(131221Z SEP 2018)

Bulletin 2 - CORRECTED

HURRICANE FLORENCE

Please distribute to all traffic nets and EMCOMM organizations
www.radio-relay.org

Hurricane Summary:

Current models remain somewhat uncertain but are much more focused. While it remains difficult to predict intensity at landfall, the data is indicating a significant category 3 to 4 hurricane at landfall focused primarily on North and South Carolina.

At 5-AM Atlantic Time, the National Hurricane Center has summarized the situation as follows:

1. A life-threatening storm surge is now highly likely along portions of the coastlines of South Carolina and North Carolina, and a Storm Surge Warning is in effect for a portion of this area. All interests from South Carolina into the mid-Atlantic region should complete preparations and follow any advice given by local officials.
2. Life-threatening, catastrophic flash flooding and significant river flooding is likely over portions of the Carolinas and Mid-Atlantic states from late this week into early next week, as Florence is expected to slow down as it approaches the coast and moves inland.
3. Damaging hurricane-force winds are likely along portions of the coasts of South Carolina and North Carolina, and a Hurricane Warning is in effect. Strong winds could also spread inland into portions

IMPORTANT POINTS

- RRI will activate on Thursday, September 13 at 2230Z (132230Z Sep 2018)
- SITREPs and Weather Observations requested.
- IATN watch frequencies available for local and state nets to expedite traffic exchange to region and area level.
- IATN watch frequencies available to operators without access to functional local/state traffic networks.
- Digital Traffic Stations to increase connect frequency.
- DTN hub operators to monitor throughput and circuit reliability.
- Winlink/RRI Liaison Stations to increase connect frequency.
- National SOS Radio Network monitoring encouraged in affected area.

of the Carolinas.

Based on the widespread effects associated with this storm, radio amateurs throughout the region should be on alert and prepared to assist.

It is strongly recommended that all interested radio amateurs review **RRI Hurricane Florence Bulletin One (Initial 101655Z)** with emphasis on the section entitled "Preparation for Emergency Operations." The bulletin is available at:

<http://radio-relay.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/Hurricane-Florence-10-Sep-2018.pdf>

MESSAGE TRAFFIC TYPOLOGY

Radio Relay International networks will be activated to provide support to radio amateurs, EmComm organizations and local/state traffic nets in the affected area. Four types of traffic are defined within the operational context, which includes, but is not necessarily limited to:

Priority Traffic (P):

- Operational traffic originated on behalf of served agencies.
- SITREPs (Situational Awareness Reporting) from the affected area.
- WXOBS (weather observations) from the affected area.

Welfare Traffic (W):

Messages pertaining to the well being or condition of individuals within the affected area.

Disaster Welfare Inquiry: DWI messages are NOT being accepted at this time.

General guidelines for message traffic origination include:

Welfare Traffic:

Whenever possible, welfare traffic should utilize a common text. For example, "ARL ONE," which translates to "everyone safe here please don't worry." Lists of standard ARL Numbered Radiogram Texts suitable for welfare traffic originations are available from several different sources, including the RRI Training Manual TR-001.

The use of a common text expedites traffic flow by limiting demand on circuit capacity and by facilitating "book format" origination and relay methods when large quantities of welfare traffic must be transferred between states or regions.

A typical welfare message might be:

1 W KD4ABC ARL2 MYRTLE BEACH SC 2330Z SEP 15
STANLEY PILSUDSKI
13231 MICHIGAN ST
CHICAGO IL 60601
312-555-2121
[STAN AT MAIL DOT NET](#)
BT
ARL ONE
BT
STEVE AND LINDA PILSUDSKI

Welfare traffic may also be originated individually as single radiograms or in book format via both manual mode networks and the RRI Digital Traffic Network.

At the minimum, a welfare message must include a name, city, state and either a phone number or e-mail address to facilitate delivery. A zip code is also helpful to facilitate routing via the Digital Traffic Network.

A special Winlink/RRI Radiogram Template is also available in Winlink Express for the origination of radiograms. This may prove ideal for inexperienced users or EmComm personnel equipped for Winlink operation. More details are provided below.

Operational Message Traffic:

Operational traffic on behalf of served agencies should be concise and brief. This ensures full interoperability. For example, messages may move from a digital network to a voice (radiotelephone) circuit to achieve “last mile” connectivity. Some tips for operational message traffic include:

- Eliminate unnecessary language.
- Avoid case-sensitive content.
- If necessary, spell out scientific nomenclature. For example, use “MILLIBARS” instead of “mb,” etc.
- Deliver messages in “all-caps” to clearly indicate to the addressee that the message may have been conveyed via a network that is not case-sensitive (VHF-FM repeater, public safety talk group, etc.).

SITREPs:

RRI will compile SITREPs and make them available to served agencies. The SITREP message format is straightforward and outlined in [Appendix A, Example 3](#) of the Draft Radio Relay International National Emergency Communications Response Plan:

<http://radio-relay.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/RRI-NECRP-Draft-V6-Public-Distribtuion-Comp.pdf>

It is recommended that one format a simple message now to familiarize oneself with the methodology and required content. Please use the following address for all SITREP traffic:

**RRI SITREP
W6RRI
BUCHANAN MI 49107**

SITREPs provide a general picture of storm impact in the affected area. It is only necessary to report significant storm effects. Examples include, but are not necessarily limited to:

- Utility outages
- Highway/road closures
- Major flooding.
- Evacuations of key facilities (schools, universities, hospitals, etc.).
- Interruption of vital government or other civil services (e.g. EOC evacuation, shelters established or evacuated, public transportation interruptions (light rail, bus, etc.).

Some important points about SITREPs:

1. When possible, share SITREP data with local emergency management via your local EmComm organization networks in addition to transmitting this data to RRI. This will ensure the same data is provided to local and state authorities.
2. Do NOT relay information readily available on network newscasts. Rather, concentrate on information that is obtained locally and which is vetted. Direct verification or verification via a trusted third party is essential. Avoid any rumor or speculation. If uncertain about the accuracy of a report, do NOT originate it.

Weather Observations (WXOBS)

Operators with access to accurate (calibrated) weather instruments are encouraged to originate weather observation messages. *For the purposes of this activation, we will utilize a simplified weather observation message format.*

The address for WXOBS target station is:

**RRI WXOBS
W3JY
Paoli PA 19301**

An example of a WXOBS message might be:

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13 P WB4XYZ 21 MYRTLE BEACH SC 1431Z SEP 14
RRI WXOBS
W3JY
PAOLI PA 19301
BT
HORRY COUNTY PRECIP 6R30 WIND 23/45 PRESSURE 29R43
BT
HAMM
```

Explanation of content:

- Message number 13
- Precedence: Priority.
- Station of Origin: WB4XYZ.
- Place of Origin: Where observation was made – Myrtle Beach, SC.
- County in which observation was made: Horry County
- Precip: Storm total precipitation 6.30 inches
- Wind: Measured 23 mph. Highest gust during past hour 45 mph.
- Pressure: Corrected to sea level 29.43
- Last name of observer is the signature: Hamm
- If data is unavailable, substitute the abbreviation “NA”

Weather observations may be once every hour to three hours during the event between 0800 EDT and 2200 EDT. Random observations taken when time permits are also permissible.

NETWORK ACTIVATION:

Manual mode networks (voice/CW):

State/section net managers may activate their networks during this event. If so, one may originate and relay messages using these facilities. It is recommended that local and state nets maintain regular liaison with the Digital Traffic Network and IATN CW circuits to facilitate the timely transfer of priority or welfare message traffic leaving the affected area (see below).

If a state/section net is not available or otherwise inaccessible, operators may take their outgoing priority or welfare message traffic directly to an IATN watch frequency. These CW circuits will be monitored during the event to expedite traffic exchange.

Traffic injected at the IATN level should be concentrated at the top of the hour when possible/practical.

Digital Traffic Network:

When practical, *All Digital Traffic Stations (DTS)* should connect and download message traffic at least hourly throughout the operational period. DTS operators within a state may want to coordinate to ensure that connectivity is maintained throughout the operational period when any one individual is unavailable to facilitate relief periods.

DTN Hub operators (region and area) should perform periodic quality control checks by monitoring throughput to ensure connectivity is maintained with the network throughout the disaster operation. Connectivity problems should be resolved promptly and, if necessary, alternate circuits or methods to facilitate message routing or delivery should be pressed into service in the event of a failure.

IATN Circuits (Watch Frequencies):

IATN operators are encouraged to monitor the standard RRI watch frequencies throughout the disaster. At the minimum, concentrate monitoring for 5-minutes at the top of each hour. IATN managers may want to coordinate watch schedules to minimize burden on any one operator.

Watch frequencies are:

Day: 7115, 10115, 14115 kHz

Night: 3563, 7115 kHz

WINLINK System:

Many EmComm organizations have Winlink connectivity. Radiograms containing operational message traffic destined for locations outside the area, SITREPs, WXOBS or welfare traffic may be originated using the **Winlink/RRI Radiogram Form**. *This form is available to ALL Winlink users* using the latest version of Winlink Express.

The Winlink/RRI Radiogram is available as a template within the messaging composing window. The radiogram template contains embedded instructions for radiogram formatting and will essentially walk one through the process.

It is strongly recommended that radio amateurs in the affected area practice using the Winlink/RRI radiogram form **now**, so they are familiar with its features in time of emergency. A simple routine message to an out-of-state relative will also provide reassurance that one is preparing for a major event.

OPERATIONAL SCHEDULE:

The following functions will commence at 2230Z on Thursday, September 12 (132230Z Sep 2018) and will continue until further notice or until otherwise amended:

- RRI volunteers will commence monitoring IATN frequencies at the time indicated above with message traffic concentration on the top of each hour.
- Local and state net managers in the affected area should ensure that nets are properly scheduled and sufficient staff is available to support traffic and EmComm functions within their service area.
- Digital Traffic Stations should commence minimum hourly download of incoming message traffic.
- Winlink/RRI liaison stations should commence minimum hourly download of incoming message traffic.
- Radio clubs and organizations participating in the *National SOS Radio Network* should commence monitoring FRS channel one for nearby requests for assistance.

Subsequent bulletins will be issued as needed to modify network operations, frequencies, operational schedules or to address other response requirements.

FORMAL SYSTEM ACTIVATION REQUESTS

EmComm organizations or individual radio amateurs requiring specialized support for either operational or welfare message traffic originations should review the activation request procedures contained in the *Radio Relay Draft National Emergency Communications Plan* Section II. Requests for activation may be sent to:

James Wades (WB8SIW)
RRI National Emergency Communications Coordinator
Marion, IL. 62959
269-650-0215
james.wades@radio-relay.org
wb8siw@winlink.org

Joseph Ames (W3JY)
RRI Board of Directors
Paoli, PA. 19301
610-695-0175
joseph.ames@radio-relay.org
w3jy@winlink.org

Jeff Miller (WB8WKQ)
RRI Eastern Area Chair
Dryden, MI. 48428
248-330-9335
seismadude2@yahoo.com

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