

Northern Florida Section ARES SitRep as of Friday, September 8, 2017 Hurricane Irma

Summary information by County/Group – 17 Counties Reporting

Wakulla County: We are currently at level 2 on EOC. We go to 1 at 8am Saturday. We have 1 shelter opening at 6pm Saturday and that is for Wakulla County residents only (not a host shelter). I'm putting out requests for help primarily for the EOC as I don't anticipate comms help at the shelter unless/until we lose cell service (possible).

Doug K4GKJ

Nassau County: Currently EOC is at level 2 partial activation.... Dept heads and leads in EOC running 2 twelve hr shifts. Full activation projected 1800 hrs. Nassau is opening 5 shelters in the western portions of the county. Of which Two special needs and one pet friendly are opened. ARES staffing set up for 9 shelters with Amateur and Police radios. Nassau EOC has 4 ARES day shift and 2 night shift for duration of hurricane.

Bud Sinor KA3OGG

Duval County: Duval FL is opening 12 wind-rated shelters, opening the Special Needs facilities first. Currently Duval ARES has 10 responding Rado's. Two have already assumed duties in the SN shelters. All Duval wind-rated shelters have pre-installed antenna's, feedline, polyphaser's and emergency power, allowing the op to plug in and operate immediately. Seven of the shelters have radios provided. The tour of duty for all Rado's will begin @ 1800, Saturday. the Red Cross facility in Jax is in a flood zone "B" and the Mayor earlier called for mandatory evacuations for all people in zones "A & B". It is yet to be determined where ARC will relocate their operation. Currently working on staffing the general population shelters. It is noteworthy to know Ham participation, pre-storm, is rather thin. We have also satisfied the request by Mayo Clinic for Rado's in their ER. Nassau, and Clay have aligned resources for their response as well. And as with everyone else, resources are currently thin.

John W4IJJ

Jackson, Washington, Holmes Counties: I met with our Emergency Management Manager yesterday as we meet with all the ESF lead personnel for Jackson County in the East Panhandle District. We're there to listen to conference call from State EOC at 5:15 your time. We are very well equipped at our EOC to handle emergency communications as far as local and HF, and some digital modes. We can easily talk with State EOC being it's only 50 miles from here. We are ready to handle our local responsibilities if needed. Jackson County is opening Marianna High School as a general population shelter (not pet friendly). A special needs shelter is on standby. School shelter should be open at 2:00 PM today. Rodney said Washington and Holmes counties was at the same level of preparedness. Partial activation is scheduled for noon Sunday. They are expecting the ham radios to be manned at that time. Rodney said that Jeff was coming by to get things ready.

Ricky KD4AST

St. John's County: St. Johns County is going to activate the EOC today. I will be going down there along with Doug, KI4NAD. They are planning to open 5 shelters Saturday at 0600. Right now, I have a number of operators ready to go. Unfortunately, three of them have pets and want to go to a pet friendly shelter. There are only two in the county. I am working with St. Johns Emergency Management to deal with that. I'm hoping a couple of my "maybe's" will come through for me.

Mike WE4MJ

Clay County: We have been asked by the Clay County EOC to activate to Level 2 on Saturday at 8am. We will staff 5 shelters effective 12:00 noon on Saturday. In preparation, we reviewed all plans at our regular ARES meeting this past week. We also asked members beforehand if they were able to deploy. Our EC & AECs met last night to review deployment plans. We will be staffing: Clay County EOC, 5 shelters, 2 Hospital locations, Sheriff's office, NWS Jacksonville Scott KK4ECR

Columbia County:

Our team meets at the Columbia County EOC 0900 for assignments and instruction today.

Richard KE4BQI

Leon County: The Capital District has had nightly Irma nets since Tuesday at 8 p.m. on a local repeater. We have reviewed our plan. ECs report that repeaters in their counties are up and reliable. Members have been alerted to standby. ECs are coordinating with local EOCs. Have not had contact with Gadsden County EC W4EAF. Will do so today.

Dave WA4WES

Alachua County: We are activating the Alachua EOC at level 1 Friday noon. I have been putting together a shelter comms plan. Originally we were doing 2 shelters - now 12, due to a special request from the Governor. Because these shelters are host evacuee (mostly) we had to open them as risk shelters because we are in the zone as well. I do not know if we will have enough volunteer hams to cover a dozen shelters, the EOC, and Red Cross, and any hospitals. I have had two special edition tropical nets to recruit volunteers. I have done several emails. I may have to do a text-message notice and/or just start calling by telephone. I am going to suggest we don't put any hams in the shelters until Sunday so they will have Friday and Saturday to prep and get equipment installed. I have attended one briefing by telephone conference call and we have the next tomorrow at 2pm. We have boxes of brand new radio equipment that was sitting around until we could get approval to put it together which happened just last night. I have a special number for the amateur radio room at the Alachua EOC if you need it: 352-264-6552. That is the ESF-2 radio room direct line. You can see we have slow-going traffic on I-75 from south of Wildwood to Valdosta Georgia through Marion, Alachua, and Columbia counties with many, many gas stations out of gas. UF is closed.

Jeff W4UFL

Escambia County: Monitoring the storm progress. Level III at the time. No plans for ARES or EOC activations at this time unless things change here in the Panhandle of Florida. Today, one of our local hospitals contacted Emergency Management asking about ham radio support for their on-site ham radio station. They remembered that ARES have conducted SET and hurricane exercises with jump teams deployed to their hospital in the last few years. We will be following up with them. In our weekly ARES net last Monday night (Sept 4), there was announcements, discussion, and question(s) about the hurricane and preparation. There were two net control operators for that weekly net, with one of net control operators operating from our COOP site (backup ARES site in case the EOC is damaged or destroyed). Also, the previous week ARES net (Aug 28) was also run from the COOP site.

Joe

Volusia County: Wednesday we had our weekly net. I gave a brief update on the storm and told people to standby and prepare your go kits or home supplies. If anyone wanted to volunteer to send me their information and I would get in contact with them. As of tonight, I have one person willing to deploy. There not a VARES member but they helped us last year, John N8TUY. Tomorrow morning, I plan on going to level III I found out tonight shelters start opening on Saturday at 10am. We will start a open net and have someone at the EOC at 10am and start asking for volunteers. I will raise the level to II at the same time. Sometime Saturday afternoon/evening and you have given the OK. I will raise the level to I.

AEC's Reed WW3A and James WX4TV will stay with their families at home and act as NCS; Warren AE4WG and I will be at the EOC.

Karl KG4BHN

Marion County: I have 2 emergency repeaters in my garage. Neither have controller-home brew type. 2m and 440. I have one can for the 2M. We also have 2 VHF repeaters at Perry Field that will be available if needed here. Both however are for Ocala frequencies 146.610. They have internal controllers but their conditions aren't fully known. Have been off the air for a year and a half. One works alright but the other has issues. That's a repeater of LAST resort. Neither has duplexers. Both are about 25W

Carl KC5CMX

Santa Rosa County: Myself and 3 AECs attended an all ESF briefing in our EOC this morning. One shelter has been placed on standby for evacuees ONLY. Because power, phones, and water systems are all operational and anticipated to remain in this status I was told that their is nor will there be for ARES support. They understand that we are available when and where needed. EMA director was in contact with Mobile NWS office just before the meeting and was told we can expect 20 to 25 mph winds Monday and Tuesday.

Ray K1HG