

Friday, September 02, 2016 5:30 AM EDT - 0930 UTC

UPDATE:

The Hurricane Watch Net has secured operations. At 4:42 AM EDT - 0842 UTC, the National Hurricane Center downgraded Hurricane Hermine to a Tropical Storm.

After 19 hours of continuous on-air coverage in support of this storm, members of the Hurricane Watch Net, operating under tough band conditions on 20 and 40 meters (mainly caused by a geomagnetic storm), transmitted advisories on Hermine to the affected area and received numerous weather reports (observed and measured). Those reports were then forward to the National Hurricane Center by way of WX4NHC.

It is hard to believe the last hurricane to strike Florida, prior to Hermine, was that of Wilma in October 2005. Hermine is also the first hurricane to strike the US since Isaac in 2012 (Sandy was 'officially' a post-tropical cyclone at landfall). Coincidentally, Wilma remains the last Major Hurricane to strike the US.

Our sincere thanks to the daily users of 14.325 and 7.268 MHz for the use of those frequencies. Your cooperation in helping keep a clear frequency greatly enhances our mission in helping those affected by hurricanes.

The Hurricane Watch Net well be prepared for the next hurricane to threaten land in the Atlantic Basin.

For now, if there is anything we can do to help in the aftermath of this storm, just let us know...we are ready.

Sincerely,
Bobby Graves, KB5HAV

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Thursday, September 1, 2016 11:30 AM EDT - 1530 UTC

UPDATE:

Due to poor propagation on 20 meters, the Hurricane Watch Net will begin operations on 7.268 MHz at 11:00 AM CDT - 1600 UTC. Operations on 14.325 MHz will continue for as long a propagation last. To clarify, the Hurricane Watch Net will be operating on both 14.325 MHz and 7.268 MHz at 11:00 AM CDT - 1600 UTC and remain in operation until further notice. Any change to this plan will be noted on our website, hwn.org and the amateur radio media.

Thank you for your support and understanding!

Bobby Graves, KB5HAV

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Thursday, September 1, 2016 8:30 AM EDT - 1230 UTC

Gentlemen:

As Director's, SM's, and SEC's of your respective ARRL Sections, I want to let you know the Hurricane Watch Net will be activating for Hermine at 10:00 AM EDT - 1400 UTC. We will be operating 14.325 MHz by day until 9:00 PM EDT - 0100 UTC and then move over to 7.268 MHz for the remainder of the evening. If band conditions dictate, we may operate both frequencies simultaneously. The net will remain in operation until further notice. Any change to this plan will be noted on our website, hwn.org and the amateur radio media.

Hermine is expected to make landfall late Thursday evening / early Friday morning as a Cat 1 Hurricane somewhere between Panama City Beach and Cedar Key Florida...of course this could change.

It's hard to believe that it has been nearly 11 years since the state of Florida was hit by a hurricane!

As with any net activation, we will be requesting observed ground-truth data from those in the affected area (Wind Speed, Wind Gust, Wind Direction, Barometric Pressure - if available, Rain, Damage, and Storm Surge). If you have measured weather data, that would be of great help. As always, we remind reporting stations to "please" do not report to us the weather information reported by your local media. We are interested only in your personal observations, preferably measured by calibrated instrumentation.

I wish to ask if you would care to provide me with the frequencies of your respective Section EMCOMM and/or H/W traffic net's? From time to time, the HWN operators receive requests to handle message traffic into affected areas. It's helpful if we can direct them to the appropriate frequencies.

If you have the opportunity to do so, we would appreciate you getting the word out to your EOC's regarding the HWN's frequencies of operation. We have an excellent track record of being able to get high priority message traffic moved between government agencies. Additionally, please help me announce our presence.

If there's anything further we can do to help, you have but to ask.

Sincerely,
Bobby Graves, KB5HAV

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