

Good evening to All,
I hope this message finds you safe.

I got power late this afternoon. Whew!

I dropped our full-scale EOC activation here in Daytona Beach, and will close out the EOC by Friday. I am slowly making my way through another 117 e-mails from ham folks regarding the storm as I have time. (yes, 300+ e-mails, I lost count of the calls by Tuesday morning).

The LEVEL 1 STATEWIDE ACTIVATION IS NOW CANCELLED – those areas that still need that status are authorized to invoke protectives measure as they see as necessary and prudent. SARNet is also released from Statewide Activation.

It appears that all of the Section (and other two sections) met the local needs of their communities and did pretty well. They prioritized and made do – signs of intelligent decision making, delegation, and priority assignments. There are currently NO requests for Ham Radio at the State EOC, and none were fulfilled. There were 3 “pre-storm requests”, but all three were not needed....(more on this in a later message.....). It also appears that some folks still haven’t figured it out (meaning local served agencies). Having your UHF Public Safety System go down pre-storm does not speak well of a government entity – and then having your own “ham operator volunteer” solicitation on the local news (evading the State system and our mutual State Comm Plan) just floors me. Thank you, it was not a county in the Northern Florida Section!

You folks did great. So far, no “bad ham” stories or complaints. You did yourselves proud. While a majority of the state is in a “stand down” posture, I am aware that some of you are still out there serving in shelters, EOC, and the like. Please be careful, reach out if you need relief.

Again, Please let me know your status (personal and ARES) when you can. If your area, group, served agency needs hams for support communications, have the request sent to the State EOC for a mission ASAP by your county or organization's emergency manager. Earlier today, I requested the ARRL send out a request for operators for a probable deployment to the Florida Keys. They were devastated down there and have a need for support. - Volunteers need to register through Volunteer Florida.

The same solicitation follows this e-mail message – Bert, please post – the rest of you, feel free to distribute as widely as you can, post to web pages, newsletters, reflectors, etc.

I will be soliciting for an after-action report with suggestions and observations in the next few weeks – don’t send it now, it’ll get lost in the mountain of stuff I’m wading through!! Wait for the solicitation.

Again, if you have needs - not wants - get the request into the State so we can get you help!

73, Thank you for your efforts!!!!
Stephen W. Szabo WB4OMM
NFL Section Manager