

The 2023 Eastern Healthcare Preparedness Coalition (EHPC) Hurricane Communication and Information Sharing Exercise

Exercise Scenario: Hurricane “Warner” and Tropical Storm “Amy” simultaneous convergence

Date: Thursday, May 4, 2023 from 8:00 AM EDT until 5:00 PM EDT

**Our Task: to provide situational awareness “ground truth” from our
respective locations per instructions below.**

Below are the Winlink instructions for the **2023 EHPC HURRICANE COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION SHARING EXERCISE**.* This *pre-hurricane readiness exercise* covers areas, mainly in FEMA Region 4, and should provide an opportunity to participate, directly in preparation for this upcoming hurricane season where situational awareness “ground truth” may be needed.

The sponsor of this exercise* requests that both CISA SHARES and Amateur Radio resources provide specific data through a Winlink templated **Field Situation Report** over VHF/UHF/HF radio or Telnet, depending on the location of the provider of the information requested (See MAPS & instructions). Please feel free to participate in this exercise, and alert others who may wish to become involved..

The Task for Winlink is directed and simple:

Below is the starting scenario for this May 4th, 2023 exercise. The “communications outages” from these two concurrent storms are listed below, and will *need specific “ground truth” information, which is dependent on the location of those reporting*. There are two separate set of instructions for input data. If you are NOT within one of the two dotted line affected areas 1 or 2 indicated on the MAPS, please use Telnet, which will alleviate the radio frequencies from unnecessary use and allow those who are reporting outages to use their radios since they would have no other choice.

- CISA SHARES Winlink from member agencies & auxiliary users within the designated areas 1 or 2, use the DHS Winlink SHARES HF/VHF Network.
- Amateur Radio Winlink from any source with a proper license within the designated areas 1 or 2, use the HF/VHF/UHF Amateur Spectrum.

If you have no radio, and are within not within one of the designated affected areas (areas 1, 2), you may use Telnet, which will also help alleviate additional traffic on the radio frequencies.

The resulting data from the incoming Winlink Field Situation Reports will be accumulated and shown to the appropriate recipients in spreadsheet and mappable formats. The resulting list of exercise participants will be provided via a FORM 309.

The Exercise Scenario:

Tropical storm Amy is forecasted to hit Central Florida the Gulf Coast late on May 2, 2023 with moderate impacts. During the same period, **Hurricane Warner** is expected to gain strength to a dangerous CAT 3 Hurricane. The current forecast is to make impacts along the Carolinas. Both of these storms are expected to cross paths and stall in the Western Carolina's. Sustained hurricane winds are almost certain along the Carolina coast with gusts to 135 mph. Hurricane force wind gusts are expected well inland along with severe flash flooding potential inland. Coastal areas are forecasted to experience life threatening storm surge. *Expect moderate to severe infrastructure damage across the Southeast. Wide scale power and internet outages are imminent starting early May 3rd.*

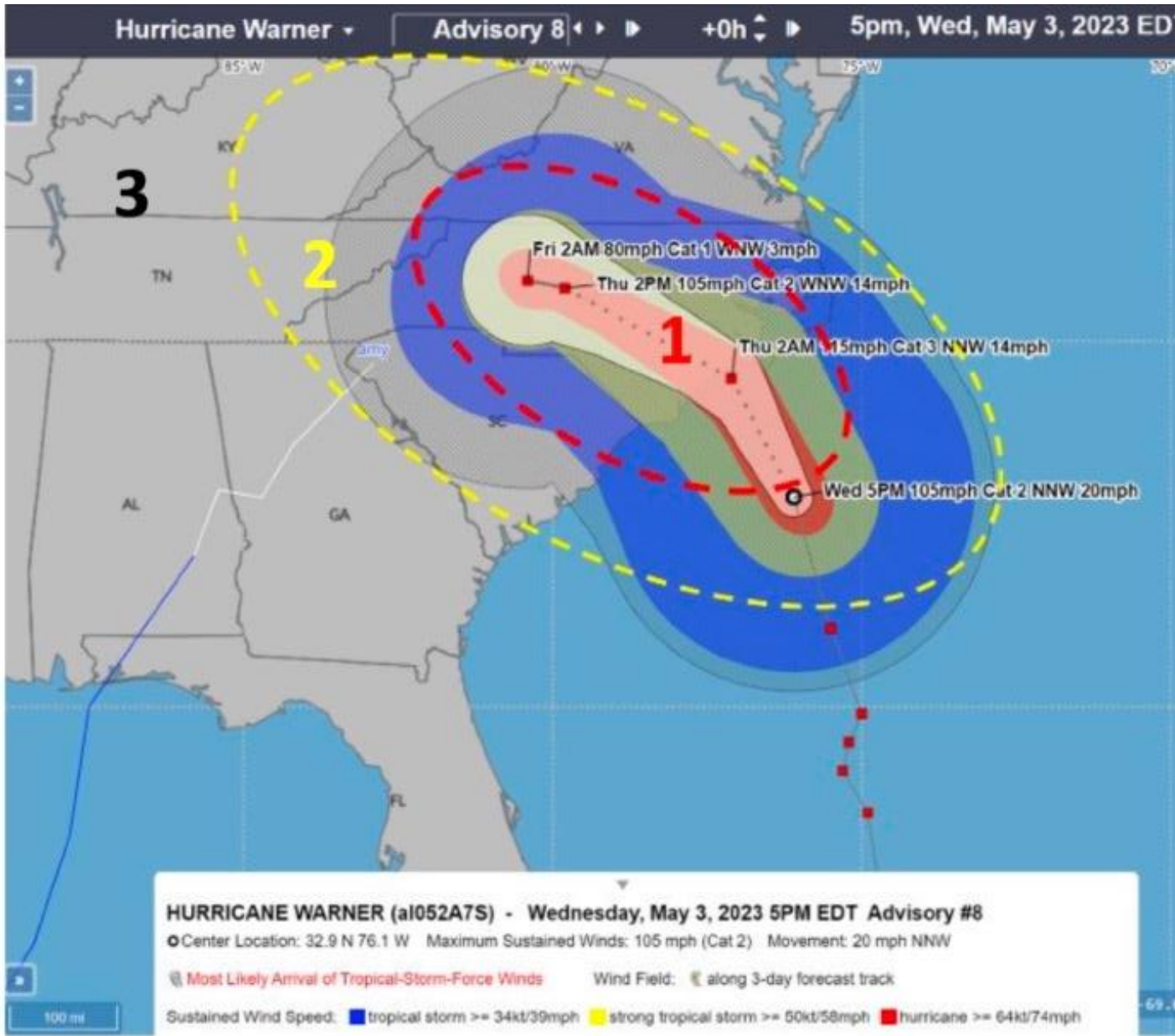
Auxiliary Communication stations are encouraged to send a Winlink templated field situation reports of degraded, damaged or nonexistent infrastructure to NCS862, NCS851, and NCS396. Stations within the intact internet connectivity "area 3" are encouraged to use TELNET in order to ease over-the-air congestion.

See MAPS below:

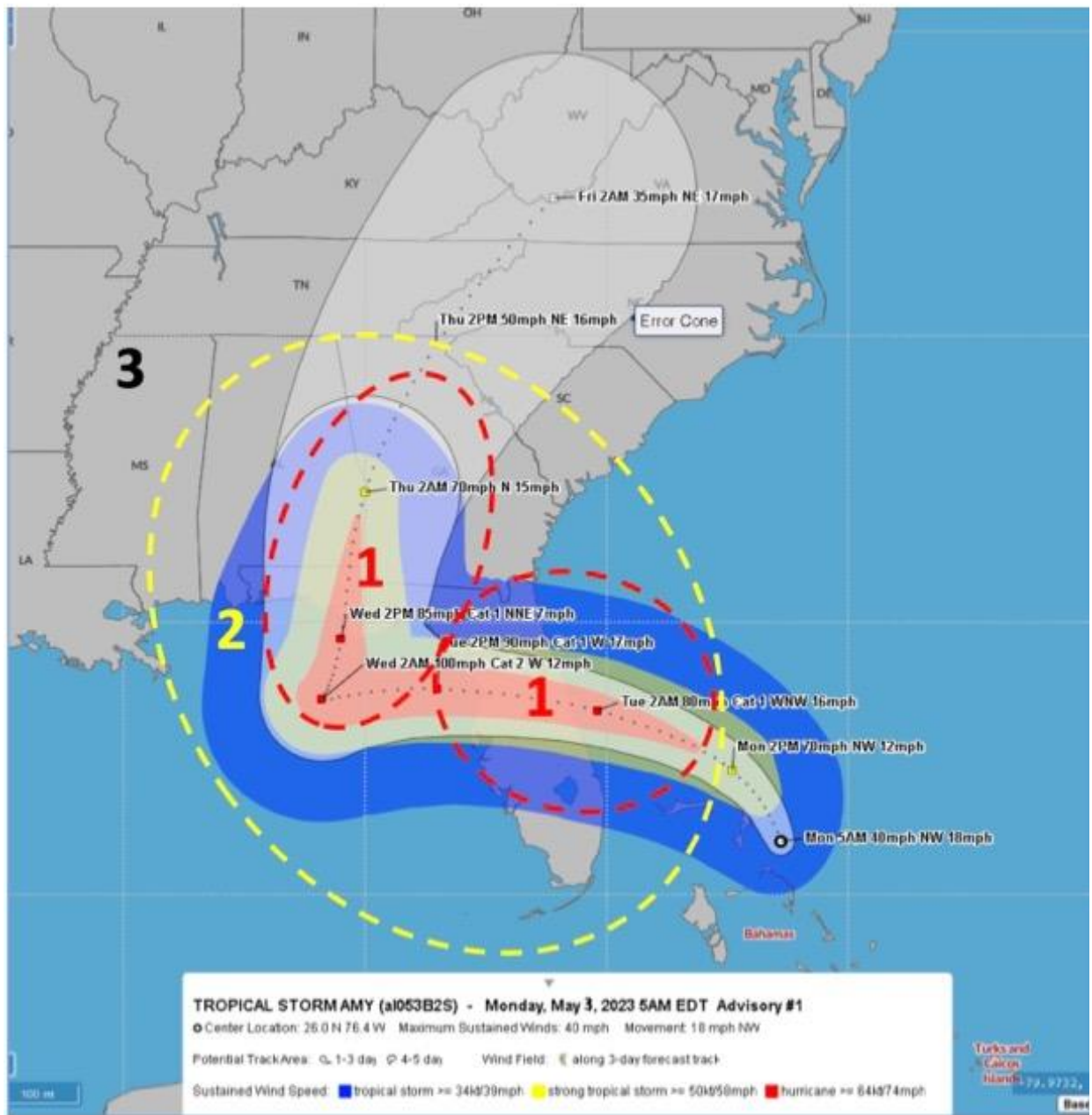
1. Stations located in the **dashed red circles (Area 1)** should submit impacts/damage reports containing *non-existent commercial power* and *Internet*. Stations in the area 1 should make all attempts to send reports via RF if able. If possible, It is recommended to reach an RMS outside the impacted area for RMS connections.

2. Stations in the **yellow dashed circle (Area 2)** should submit reports of *POTS and Cable TV outages*.

3. Stations in area 3 are asked to submit reports with no impacts via TELNET. (Area 3 is not specifically defined and left up to those who distribute this request for participation. Suggest TN, KY, MS, (FEMA R4) and VA, WVA (FEMA R3).



HURRICANE WARNER



TROPICAL STORM AMY

Below are the instructions for participants:

DATE and TIME of Exercise: Thursday, May 4th, from 8:00 AM EDT until 5:00 PM EDT.

- If possible, no telnet from areas where communications outage problems are shown to exist (Areas 1 & 2)
- Message to send: Winlink standard Template, Field Situation Report
- Please avoid requesting acknowledgement requests, either manually or automatically.
- If you are in affected areas 1 and 2 from both storms, report for the area 1 situation, only using the instructions for that area.
- CISA SHARES Winlink from member agencies & other users within these two FEMA Regions over the DHS Winlink SHARES HF/VHF Network.
- Amateur Radio Winlink from any source with a proper license within these two FEMA Regions sending the data over the HF/VHF/UHF Amateur Spectrum.
- If you have no radio and are not within one of these affected metro areas, you may use Telnet if you wish.
- **For the Amateur Radio Community, as a part of this exercise, I am to leave the further distribution of this information to those copied as leaders over others within their span of control. The further distribution of this instruction is a part of the exercise. Please use whatever resources you have available.**
- Resulting data from the Winlink Field Situation Report will be accumulated and shown to the appropriate recipients as a spreadsheet item (via KML & CSV) for further use by anyone wishing to provide a dashboard, and visually to the named recipients as a mapped item in Winlink Express. The resulting list of exercise participants will be provided via a FORM 309.
- **Please avoid requesting acknowledgement, either manually or automatically.**

How to fill out the Field Situation Report:

1. Open Winlink Express (insure you have a most recent version, ie. 1.7.5.0 or higher, Template Version 1.0.226.0 or higher.)
2. Open "**New Message**" form. (First ICON in menu).
3. On New Message Form, look for "**Select Template**" menu. Choose "**Select Template.**"
4. Double click on "**Standard Templates**"
5. Double click on "**Mapping GIS Forms.**"

6. Double click on “**Field Situation Report.txt**”

7. Your browser should open with the HTML Form.

8. If you are NOT in an AFFECTED areas 1 or 2 of either storm, fill out the form per info below:

a. PRECEDENCE (R) **Routine**

b. Date Time, Task as 1.0.

c. **To NCS862; NCS851; NCS396** (separate addresses with semi-colon).

d. On the Field Situational Report Form: (Area 3 only)

#1: **NO.**

#2. your City, County, State, and Territory (FEMA R4: TN, KY, MS, FL, GA, AL, NC, SC) or FEMA R3: VA, WVA).

#3. **Put in Coordinates using degree decimal format, DD.DDDD** . Example: LAT: 36.0703 LON: -86.8241, which is the correct format.

(If you cannot provide coordinates per above, then put in your Grid Square, and they will be approximated from your Winlink Express settings.)

Remember that Western hemisphere longitude is a **negative number!** (It will inform you if incorrect)

Put in your Grid Square.

#4. YES

#5. YES

#6. YES

#7. YES

#8. YES

#9. YES

#10. YES

#11. YES

#12. Please state, “EXERCISE, EXERCISE EXERCISE”

#13. Name, call sign.

If any of the above conditions are actually out of service, please follow this instruction, regardless.

Check your information and then “submit” the form

9. If you ARE in AFFECTED area 1 (Red dotted line) of either storm, then please fill out the Field Situation Report as shown below for Area 1 in either storm:

if you have two conflicting areas involving areas 1 & 2, use the Hurricane as your guide.

a. At upper left is “Setup,” which you may leave blank or fill-in as appropriate.

b. PRECEDENCE **(P)** Priority

c. Fill in the Date Time, Task as 1.0.

d. To NCS862; NCS851; NCS396 (separate addresses with semi-colon).

e. On Form:

#1: **NO.**

#2. your City, County, State, and for “Territory” (FEMA R4: TN, KY, MS, FL, GA, AL, NC, SC) or FEMA R3: VA, WVA).

#3. **Put in Coordinates using decimal format** . Example: LAT: 36.0703 LON: - 86.8241, which is the correct format.

(If you cannot provide coordinates per above, then put in your Grid Square, and they will be approximated from your Winlink Express settings.)

Remember that Western hemisphere longitude is a **negative number!** (It will inform you if incorrect)

Put in your Grid Square.

#4. YES

#5. YES

#6. YES

#7. YES

#8. YES

#9a and 9b, (Leave “Unknown”)

#10. NO

#11. YES

#12. Please state, "EXERCISE, EXERCISE EXERCISE"

#13 Name, call sign, cell number (optional)

Check your information and then "submit" the form

10.If you ARE in AFFECTED Area 2 (yellow dotted line) of either storm, then please fill out the Field Situation Report as shown below for Area 2 in either storm:

e. On Form:

#1: **NO.**

#2. your City, County, State, and for "Territory" (FEMA R4: TN, KY, MS, FL, GA, AL, NC, SC) or FEMA R3: VA, WVA).

#3. **Put in Coordinates using decimal format** . Example: LAT: 36.0703 LON: - 86.8241, which is the correct format.

(If you cannot provide coordinates per above, then put in your Grid Square, and they will be approximated from your Winlink Express settings.)

Remember that Western hemisphere longitude is a **negative number!** (It will inform you if incorrect)

Put in your Grid Square.

#4a. NO

#5. YES

#6. YES

#7c. NO

#8. YES

#9. YES

#10. YES

#11. YES

#12. Please state, "EXERCISE, EXERCISE EXERCISE"

#13 Name, call sign, cell number (optional)

Check your information and then "submit" the form

11. If not done automatically, then close your browser.

12. **Post the message to the Winlink Express Outbox** (*Post Message* is a menu item).

Thank you for your participation!

Steve, K4CJX, NCS396

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615-300-5296

When the disaster is at its worst, communications should be at its best.

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***2023 Eastern Healthcare Preparedness Coalition (EHPC) Hurricane
Communication and Information Sharing Exercise:**

Link for additional information:

Main exercise page:

<https://subsplash.com/easternhealthcareprepare/media/ms/+xkh5nfj>

**All auxiliary communication / SHAREs stations outside of North Carolina are
encouraged to participate:**

**EXERCISE OPERATIONAL PERIOD IS FROM 050423 0800EST – 050423
1700EST**

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