

Start: 1951 L – 2009: TBD L

Hurricane Amaranth Exercise

1.1 OVERVIEW.

Thank you, Bob. Good evening to the net. Tonight, I'll be giving the net an overview of next week's hurricane Amaranth exercise.

1.2 OBJECTIVE

The primary objective of this exercise is to evaluate the performance of ACS during a simulated hurricane emergency that requires the Pinellas County EOC to be activated, emergency evacuation shelters to be opened, and one or more Incident Communication Centers (ICC) to be deployed. ACS participants will be required to obtain communications equipment from the EOC; install, configure, and operate communications equipment at simulated emergency evacuation shelters; emplace, configure, operate, and maintain SatRunner™ CRDs™ and CommandRunner™ CRDs™ at simulated ICCs; perform communication tests with all Pinellas County municipalities using VoIP telephone, 800 MHz P25 radios, and VHF amateur radio circuits; and finally, perform communication checks with the state of Florida EOC using both HF and satellite circuits.

1.3 EXERCISE OPERATIONAL PERIODS

The exercise is divided into the three operational periods described below.

1.3.1 Exercise Operational Period 1 – The Approaching Storm

On Sunday May 1st, the National Weather Service issues a bulletin stating that a tropical depression is likely to form in the Southern Gulf of Mexico and that the projected storm track includes Pinellas County. This kicks off the exercise at 0900.

- a. At approximately 1700, the ACS Radio officer ACS RO will notify the ACS membership of Level 3 Activation via Pinellas Alert System and ACS Tactical Resource Net is established at level 3.

- c. On Monday May 2nd, a tropical depression forms, later becoming Tropical Storm Amaranth. There is a high probability that the hurricane will make landfall within Pinellas County.
- d. As the simulated storm intensifies and land fall probability at Pinellas County increases, at approximately 1200, the ACS RO notifies ACS membership of Level 2 Activation via Pinellas Alert System and ACS Tactical-Resource net is established at level 2.
- e. Late on the evening of May 2nd at approximately 2000, the ACS RO notifies the membership via Pinellas Alert that ACS will be transitioning to Level 1 activation at 0700 on the morning of Tuesday May 3rd.
- f. On the morning of May 3rd, at 0700, Pinellas County orders the simulated mandatory evacuation of zones A, B, and C; Emergency evacuation shelters are opened; and ICC equipment is prepositioned. The ACS Tactical-Resource net is established at Level 1. ACS RADOs scheduled for deployment report to the EOC.

1.3.2 Exercise Operational Period 2 – EOC Activation

On Tuesday May 3rd at 0800, all exercise participants will meet at the Pinellas County EOC for an exercise in brief. At the conclusion of the briefing, all participants will depart the EOC for their designated deployment locations.

- a. **Evacuation Shelter Teams** – Up to four Simulated Shelters will be opened. Each simulated shelter will be staffed with two ACS radio operators. ACS RADOs at each simulated evacuation shelter will demonstrate the ability to
 - (1) Install and configure Shelter Radio kit
 - (2) Exchange informal and formal voice message traffic with the EOC. This will include the exchange of basic ICS 213 messages.
 - (3) Maintain appropriate ICS documentation (ICS 214 activity log and ICS 309 communications log) throughout the exercise.
 - (4) Perform demobilization procedures. That include de-installing, packing, returning the equipment to the EOC.

- b. **Incident Communication Centers** – Two simulated ICCs will be opened. Each ICC will be staffed with three ACS radio operators. The ACS RADOs at each simulated ICC will demonstrate the ability to:
- (1) Emplace and configure a SatRunner and CommandRunner CRD.
 - (2) Exchange informal and formal voice and digital message traffic with the EOC using VHF amateur radio and the P25 800-MHz system.
 - (3) Configure the ICC to provide localized cellular phone and internet service using a SATCOM backhaul circuit.
 - (4) Basic communications tests will be performed between the ICCs and each municipality using VoIP telephone circuits, the P25 800-MHz radio system, and VHF amateur radio frequencies.
 - (5) Maintain appropriate ICS documentation throughout the exercise period.
 - (6) Perform demobilization procedures. That include de-installing, packing, returning the equipment to the EOC.
- c. **EOC Radio Room** – The EOC Radio Room will be staffed with two ACS radio operators. These radio operators will demonstrate the ability to:
- (1) Establish the ACS Tactical-Resource and ACS Shelter nets and perform the role of net control.
 - (2) Exchange informal and formal voice message traffic with the evacuation shelters and ICCs.
 - (3) Exchange formal digital message traffic with the ICCs using VHF Winlink
 - (4) Maintain appropriate ICS documentation and net control logs throughout the exercise period.
- d. If all goes according to the plan, all exercise participants will return to the EOC for a Hot Wash meeting that will start at approximately 1230. The purpose of the Hot Wash is to provide exercise participants with an opportunity to discuss pros and cons, strengths, and areas for improvement. The information gathered during each hotwash will contribute to the After-Action Report and

Improvement Plan (AAR/IP) and any exercise suggestions can improve future exercises.

- e. The Hot Wash should conclude by no later than 1330 after which most participants will be free to secure. A smaller group of participants will return after lunch to perform a set of post storm activities.

1.3.3 Exercise Operational Period 3 – Post Storm Activities

This operational period begins at 1500 and should conclude by 1730. During this operational period, hurricane Amaranth departs Pinellas County, and the weather clears sufficiently to allow personnel onto the roof the public safety complex. All internet, cell phone, and land line circuits at the EOC are inoperative requiring the use of Satellite and HF radio circuits for communications with the State of Florida EOC.

- a. **EOC Radio Room** – The EOC Radio Room will be staffed with four ACS radio operators. These radio operators will demonstrate the ability to establish and maintain communications with the state of Florida EOC using Satellite and HF radio circuits.
 - (1) Install the TracStar satellite antenna system on the roof of the Public Safety Complex.
 - (2) Perform communication checks between the Pinellas County EOC and the State of Florida EOC using the EMnet, MSAT, and TracStar voice satellite networks.
 - (3) Test all the Red phones in the EOC.
 - (4) Exchange digital message traffic with the State of Florida EOC using both HF amateur radio and SHARES frequencies.
 - (5) De-install, pack, and store the TracStar satellite antenna system.
- b. If all the Radio Room activities go according to plan, the radio room team will complete testing by 1700, immediately conduct a Hot Wash of the afternoon's

activities, and secure by no later than 1730. This concludes the exercise activities.

1.4 PLAYERS INSTRUCTIONS

Players should follow certain guidelines before, during, and after the exercise to ensure a safe and effective exercise.

1.4.1 Before the Exercise

- a. Review appropriate organizational plans, procedures, and exercise support documents.
 - (1) Exercise Plan. This will be delivered by email to all registered exercise participants on Thursday April 28th.
 - (2) Pinellas County ACS/ARES® Emergency Communication Plan and Standard Operating Procedures; Rev (E)
- b. Bring the following materials to the exercise.
 - (1) Pinellas County Volunteer Badge.
 - (2) Hand-held 2-meter Transceiver; At least one per team programmed to support the Pinellas PLAN A (146.4300 MHz Wide) and VHF NTL CALL (146.5200 MHz Wide) simplex frequencies.
 - (3) Florida ARRL® Tri-Section ARES® Standardized Training Plan Emergency Communicator Individual Position Task Book; January 2020
 - (4) Position Task Book (PTB) for the Position of Auxiliary Communicator (AUXC); Version 2.0; January 2022

NOTE: *Personal and position related Go-kits are not being evaluated during this exercise and players should not bring Go-kit material, except as specified elsewhere in this plan, to the exercise. The exercise team will provide everything you need for the exercise including paper, forms, pens, tables, chairs, etc.*

- c. Arrive at the Pinellas EOC for the exercise at least 30-minutes prior to the start of the exercise in-brief. An exercise controller will be available at the front of the building to escort participants into the EOC.
- d. Dress appropriately for the exercise.
 - (1) Long pants, shirt, and closed toed shoes are required. For those participants who will be spending time outside, a wide brim hat is recommended. We expect several VIPs at the event, and we want to make a good impression.
 - (2) Participants who arrive at the EOC wearing shorts, tee-shirts, or sandals will be turned away.
- e. Sign in when you arrive. An ICS 205A will be used to keep track of all participants.

1.4.2 During the Exercise

- a. Respond to exercise events and information as if the emergency were real, unless otherwise directed by an exercise controller.
- b. If you do not understand the scope of the exercise, or if you are uncertain about a task in an exercise, ask a controller / evaluator.
- c. Maintain an ICS 214 and ICS 309 log of your activities.

1.4.3 After the Exercise

- a. Participate in the Hotwash.
- b. Provide any notes or materials generated from the exercise (e.g., ICS 214, ICS 309, copies of formal message traffic, elements of Incident Action Plan) to the Pinellas ACS Administration Officer for review and inclusion in the AAR/IP.

1.5 QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS

I'd like to pause here for a minute and ask if anyone has a comment or question about tonight's presentation. If you have a comment or question, please provide me with your call sign, slowly, clearly, and phonetically so I don't make a mistake when I respond. And then ask your question or provide me with your comment.

This is WA1RYQ.

[PAUSING FOR QUESTIONS]

1.6 CONCLUSION.

That's all I have for this week's training session. I'll conclude with several important points.

- a. If you want to participant in the exercise, and we encourage everyone to participate, please contact me no later than Wednesday April 27th so that we can assign you to a team. We need to know how many members will be participating so that we can properly stage the sites.
- b. I will be sending a copy of the exercise plan to all registered participants on Thursday April 28th.
- c. A presentation describing the exercise is currently available on the PACS web site under the training tab. Look for the Exercise page.
- d. This only the first of several exercises we will be performing this year. So, we expect that everyone will have an opportunity to work and get experience at each of the venues (shelter, ICC, and EOC Radio Room). That means that if you are assigned to a shelter team for this exercise, you will be rotated to either an ICC or EOC for the next exercise.

I can be contacted via email at WA1RYQ@arri.net. My contact information is also available on the Pinellas ACS Web site.

Now with that, I'll turn it back to Net Control.

1.7 QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS.

The following table contains a summary of the comments and questions provided by the membership during the presentation.

No.	Call Sign	Comments	Response
		No Additional Questions or comments	