

The logo is a circular emblem with a red outer ring containing the text "EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS" at the top and "THUR RADIO AMATEUR OPERATIONS" at the bottom, separated by two stars. The inner blue circle features a satellite, a laptop, a radio tower, and a lightning bolt. The acronym "A.C.S." is written in large yellow letters at the bottom of the inner circle.

Pinellas ACS

Hurricane Amaranth Exercise

Operational Period 2

Mike Drake

Pinellas ACS Training Officer

5/3/2022



Pinellas ACS Hurricane Amaranth Exercise Objectives



- Meet communication objectives defined by Pinellas County
- Stage a HSEEP compliant communications exercise
- Train Pinellas ACS communicators in skills needed during the approach, landfall, and aftermath of a tropical cyclone
- Evaluate individual player performance against AUXCOMM and ARES® Position task book requirements



Pinellas ACS Hurricane Amaranth Exercise

Exercise Objectives



Overarching Pinellas County Exercise Objective

“The Pinellas County EOC will establish and maintain multi-agency and multi-jurisdictional communications and coordination during a hurricane response in accordance with Pinellas County’s Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan.”



Pinellas ACS Hurricane Amaranth Exercise

Pinellas County Scenario



On May 2, 2022, a cold front moves over the southern Gulf of Mexico. A tropical depression forms, later becoming Tropical Storm Amaranth. The storm strengthens modestly over the next few days, and on May 6, 2022, Hurricane Amaranth makes landfall in Pinellas County as a Category 2 hurricane with winds of 100 mph and surge of 6 – 8 ft.

- Exercise Dates
 - Pinellas County - May 2nd through May 6th
 - Pinellas ACS - May 1st, May 2nd, and May 3rd

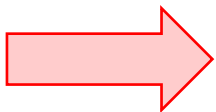


Pinellas ACS Hurricane Amaranth Exercise

Detailed Pinellas ACS Scenario



- Exercise Divided into Three Operational Periods
 - The Approaching Storm
 - Sunday May 1st 0900 through Tuesday May 3rd 0730
 - EOC Activation
 - Tuesday May 3rd 0900 through 1330
 - Post Storm
 - Tuesday May 3rd 1500 through 1730



ACS Communication Testing Allocated to May 3rd



Pinellas ACS Hurricane Amaranth Exercise

ACS Operational Period One



- On Sunday May 1st, 2022
 - The National Weather Service issued a bulletin stating that a tropical depression was likely to form in the Southern Gulf of Mexico and that the projected storm track included Pinellas County.
 - ACS RO notified ACS membership of Level 3 Activation (*ALERT*) via Pinellas Alert System and ACS Tactical Resource Net was established at level 3
- On Monday May 2nd, 2022
 - A tropical depression forms, later becoming Tropical Storm **Amaranth**. There is a high probability that a hurricane will make landfall within Pinellas County.
 - As the simulated storm intensified and land fall probability at Pinellas County increased, ACS RO notified ACS membership of Level 2 Activation (*STAND-BY*) via Pinellas Alert System and ACS Tactical-Resource net was established at level 2.
 - Late in the evening, the ACS RO notified the membership via Pinellas Alert that ACS would be transitioning to Level 1 activation (*ACTIVATE*) at 0700 on the morning of May 3rd.
- On the morning of Tuesday May 3rd, 2022
 - At 0700, the ACS Tactical-Resource net was established at Level 1.
 - ACS Radio Operators scheduled for deployment reported to the EOC.



Pinellas ACS Hurricane Amaranth Exercise

ACS Operational Period Two



- Current Situation – 0900 Tuesday 3rd, 2022
 - Pinellas County has ordered the mandatory evacuation of zones A, B, and C (simulated); Emergency evacuation shelters are now open; and Incident Communication Center (ICC) equipment has been prepositioned.
 - The following venues need to be staffed by ACS Radio Operators
 - The EOC Radio room
 - Up to Six emergency evacuation shelters
 - Two prepositioned ICCs
 - The weather has not yet begun to deteriorate, so ACS team members are able to move between their homes, the EOC, and deployment locations without being impacted by the weather.
 - After the storm passes, teams will be directed to demobilize and return to the EOC for a Hotwash meeting



Pinellas ACS Hurricane Amaranth Exercise

Work Assignments – EOC Radio Room Team



- Establish the **ACS Tactical-Resource** net and perform the role of net control.
- Establish the **ACS Shelter** net and perform the role of net control.
- Exchange tactical / formal voice and digital message traffic with Evacuation Shelters and ICC as required to meet mission requirements.
- Perform communication tests with each ICC using the 800-MHZ P25 public safety network.
- Maintain site ICS 214, ICS 309, and net control logs throughout deployment period.
- Track the status of deployed ACS resources that are transiting between locations. If an ACS resource does not report their arrival at a specified destination within 30-minutes of departure, the EOC will call the resource to find out where they are located or, if necessary, send someone to look for them.
- Monitor NOAA weather radio and immediately notify shelter and ICC teams of approaching inclement weather. Notification will need to take place on both the **ACS Tactical-Resource** and **ACS Shelter nets**.

ICC – Incident Communication Centers



Pinellas ACS Hurricane Amaranth Exercise

Work Assignments – Emergency Evacuation Shelter Teams



- Report to simulated emergency evacuation shelter.
- Install and configure VHF radio equipment within the assigned radio room.
- Establish and maintain VHF communications with the Pinellas County EOC.
- Exchange tactical and formal voice message traffic with the EOC as required to meet mission requirements.
- Maintain site ICS 214 and ICS 309 throughout deployment period.
- Obtain Shelter Radio Go-Kit from ACS Logistics Officer before departure to assigned shelter.
- Contact EOC via **ACS Tactical-Resource net** when transiting between locations. Notify EOC upon departure and arrival.
- Upon Demobilization:
 - Return Shelter Radio Go-Kit to ACS Logistics Officer. Inventory and document all discrepancies.



Pinellas ACS Hurricane Amaranth Exercise

Work Assignments – Incident Communication Centers (ICC)



- Report to simulated ICC deployment location. Emplace and configure a SatRunner™ and CommandRunner™ CRD™.
- ICC should provide the following capabilities to collocated emergency management personnel.
 - Cellular phone, high-speed internet, Wi-Fi, and VoIP phone service via a SATCOM backhaul circuit.
 - VHF/UHF amateur voice and digital networks; and 700-800 MHz public safety networks.
- Exchange tactical / formal voice and digital message traffic with the EOC as required to meet mission requirements.
- Perform communication tests with Pinellas County Municipalities. Verify that the ICC can communicate with each municipality using VoIP telephone, VHF amateur radio, and the 800-MHz County P25 radio system. Each ICC will perform communication tests with alternate halves (50%) of the county municipalities.
- Maintain site ICS 214 and ICS 309 throughout deployment period.
- Contact EOC via **ACS Tactical-Resource** net when transiting between locations. Notify EOC upon departure and arrival.

CRD – Compact Rapid Deployable



Pinellas ACS Hurricane Amaranth Exercise

ACS Communication Teams



Communication Teams

- EOC Radio Room
- Shelters
 - Evac Shelter A – Lealman Exchange
 - Evac Shelter B – Bauder Elementary
 - Evac Shelter C – Ross Norton Rec
 - Evac Shelter D – Gulfport Elementary
 - Evac Shelter E – East Lake High
 - Evac Shelter F – Boca Ciega High
- ICCs
 - ICC Team A – Tropicana Field
 - ICC Team B – Tyrone Mall

Team Leads

Dave Rockwell

Robert Burke

Doug Williams

Harold Chase

Ryan Rager

Ryan Ryczek

Will Minor

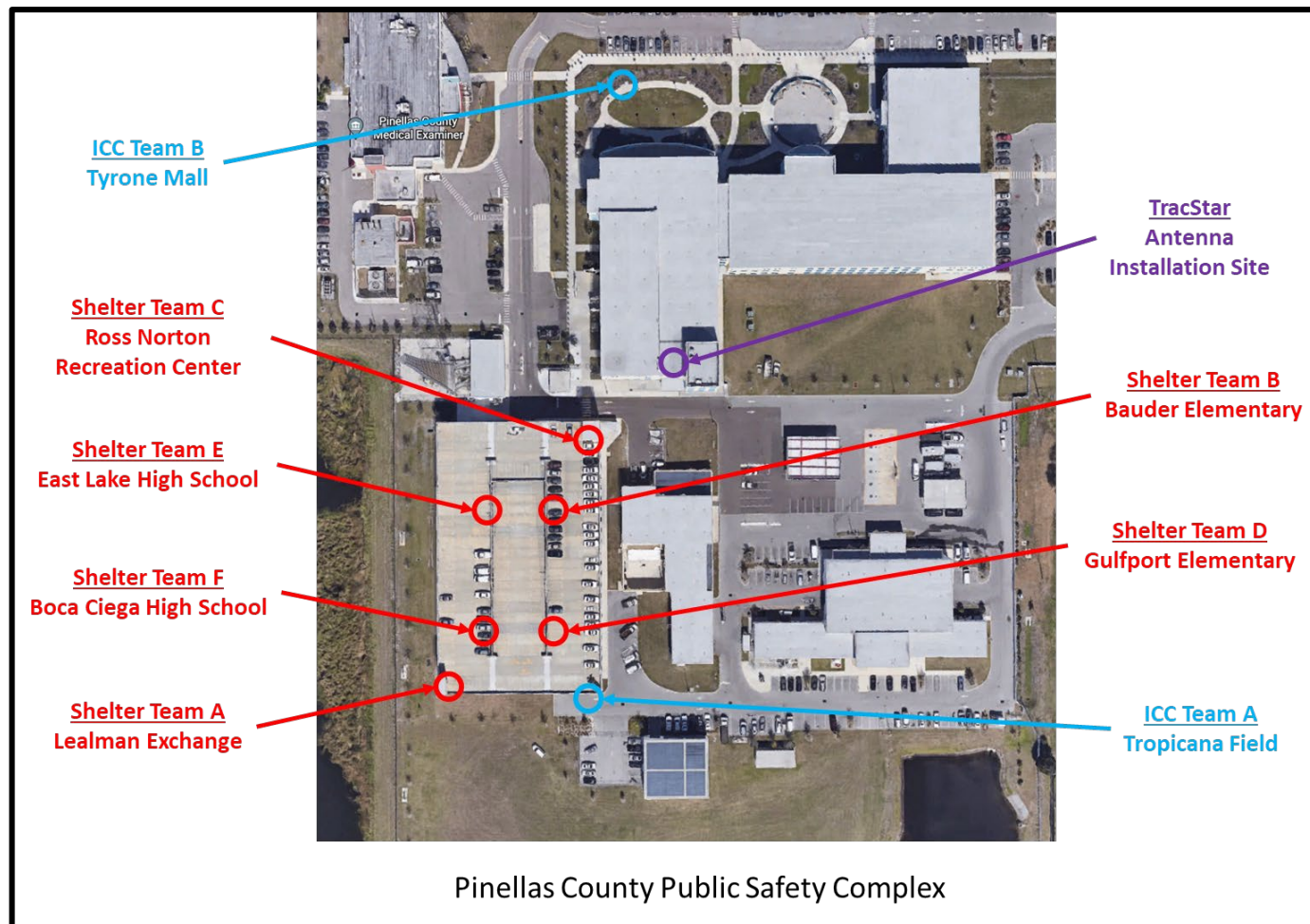
Bruce Kreutzer

Will Scott



Pinellas ACS Hurricane Amaranth Exercise

Deployment Locations



- Six simulated shelter locations
 - Top Floor of Parking Garage
 - Staged prior to exercise with tables and chairs
 - Canopies installed for shade at four central Shelter sites
- Two ICC locations
- All deployment sites have access to AC Power
- Ice chests and bottled water available on 1st and 4th floor of garage



Pinellas ACS Hurricane Amaranth Exercise

Shelter Deployment Locations

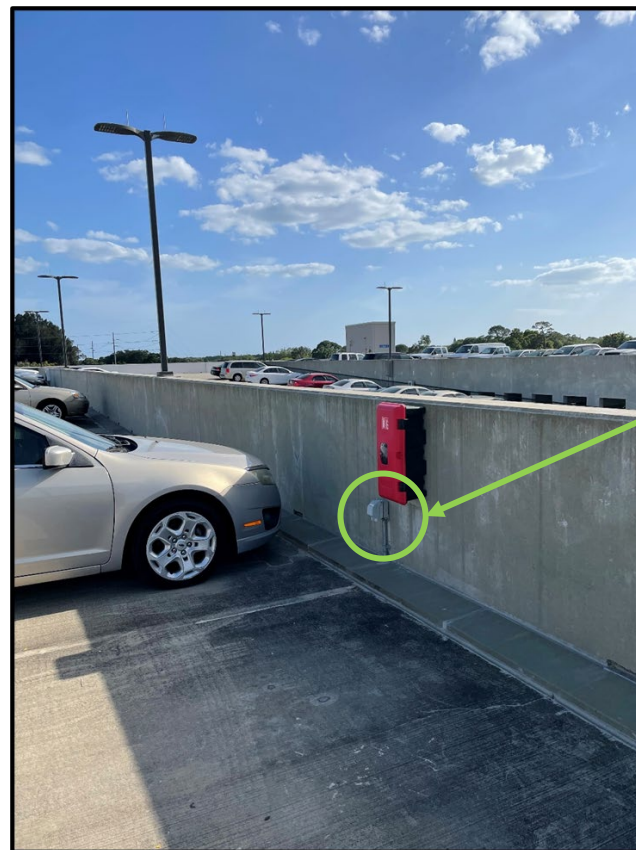


AC Power
Outlet



Southwest Corner

AC Power
Outlet



East of Vehicle Ramp

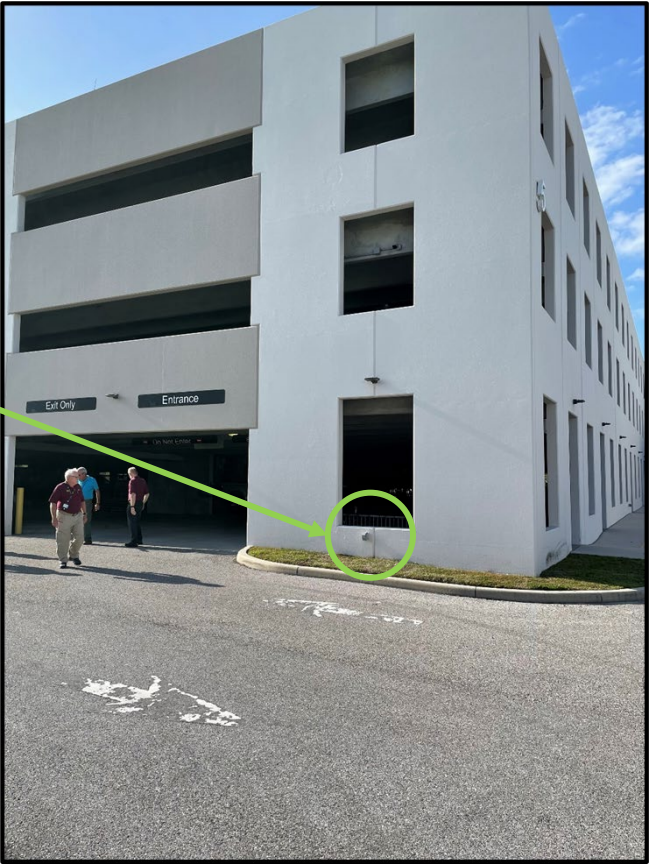


Pinellas ACS Hurricane Amaranth Exercise

ICC Deployment Locations



AC Power
Outlet



Southeast Corner

AC Power
Outlet



Northwest Front of Complex



Pinellas ACS Hurricane Amaranth Exercise

Communications Plan



INCIDENT RADIO COMMUNICATIONS PLAN (ICS 205)

1. Incident Name: Hurricane Amaranth Exercise				2. Date/Time Prepared: Date: 4/24/2022 Time: 1654				3. Operational Period: Date From: 5/03/2022 Date To: 5/03/2022 Time From: 0900 Time To: 1330			
4. Basic Radio Channel Use:											
Zone Grp.	Ch #	Function	Channel Name/Trunked Radio System Talk group	Assignment	RX Freq N or W	RX Tone/NAC	TX Freq N or W	TX Tone/NAC	Mode A, D, M	Remarks	
	2	Tactical	PACS PLAN A	Tact-Rsrc	146.4300W	CSQ	146.4300W	CSQ	A	ACS Tactical-Resource Net	
	10	Tactical	WD4SCD Rptr	Shelter Ops	147.0300W	CSQ	147.6300W	146.2	A	ACS Shelter Net West County	
		Tactical Data	W4ACS-10	1200 Packet	145.0900W	CSQ	145.0900W	CSQ	D	See Special Instructions Below	
		Tactical Data	W4ACS-10	VARA FM Wide	145.0900W	CSQ	145.0900W	CSQ	D	See Special Instructions Below	
		Tactical	EOC A	Coord A	800MHz N				D	See Special Instructions Below	
		Tactical	EOC B	Coord B	800MHz N				D	See Special Instructions Below	
	3	Tactical Bk-Up	PACS PLAN B	Tact-Rsrc	146.4700W	CSQ	146.4700W	CSQ	A	Back-up Tactical-Resource Net	
	5	Tactical Bk-Up	TB Simplex	Shelter Ops	147.5500W	CSQ	147.5500W	CSQ	A	Back-up ACS Shelter Net	
	32	Weather	WX 5	NOAA	162.4500W	CSQ	N/A	N/A	A		
5. Special Instructions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shelter Radio Kit channel numbers are listed in the Ch# column. Local Winlink Digital net will use the W4ACS-10 VHF RMS gateway. This gateway is a member of the Winlink EMCOMM group and is configured to support 1200 baud Packet and VARA FM. ICC Team A will use 800-MHz channel EOC A to perform comm checks with the EOC and local municipalities. ICC Team B will use 800-MHz channel EOC B to perform comm checks with the EOC and local municipalities. 											
6. Prepared by (Communications Unit Leader): Name: Clayton Parrott Signature: _____											
ICS 205			IAP Page ____		Date/Time: 4/30/2022						



Pinellas ACS Hurricane Amaranth Exercise

Communications Plan – Rules



- All communications (including written, radio, telephone, and e-mail) during the exercise will begin and end with the statement “**This is an exercise**”.
- Formal and informal radio digital messages exchanged during the exercise will comply with the procedures documented in paragraph 5.6.1 of the *Pinellas County ACS/ARES[®] Communications Plan and SOP document*.
- These precautions are taken so that anyone who overhears a conversation or reviews written message traffic will not mistake exercise play for a real-world emergency.



Pinellas ACS Hurricane Amaranth Exercise Schedule



Day 3: May 3 rd 2022	Personnel	Activity	Location
0700-0730	Controllers, & Evaluators	Controller and Evaluator Briefing. Check-in for final instructions and communications check.	EOC
0700	All Players	NCS activates Tactical Resource Net at level 1 and directs all player to depart for EOC.	Home
0730	All Players	End Operational Period 1	
0800-0900	All Participants	Operational Period 2 Briefing	EOC
0900	All Players	Conclude Operational Period Briefing, Release players for deployment – Begin Operational Period 2.	EOC
0900-0915	Shelter Teams	Distribute shelter radios and depart for Simulated shelters.	EOC, Sim shelters
0900	ICC Teams	Depart EOC for Incident Communications Center	EOC, ICC
0920-1000	ICC Teams	Arrive at ICC, emplace and configure SatRunner™ CRD™	ICC
0930-1000	Shelter Teams	Arrive at Sim shelter location, Set-up equipment, and check-into Shelter net.	Sim Shelters
1000-1030	ICC Teams	Emplace and configure CommandRunner™ CRD™.	ICC

Day 3: May 3 rd 2022	Personnel	Activity	Location
1000-1130	Shelter Teams	Exchange both informal and formal voice message traffic with EOC.	Sim Shelters
1030-1100	ICC Teams	Exchange both informal and formal message traffic with EOC using voice and data nets.	ICC
1100-1130	ICC Teams	Perform communication tests with Pinellas County municipalities.	ICC
1130-1200	Shelter Teams	Demobilize shelter site, pack equipment, return to EOC, and return equipment to Logistics officer.	Sim Shelter, EOC
1130-1200	ICC Teams	Shutdown, pack and ready for transport SatRunner CRD™ and CommandRunner CRD™.	ICC
1200-1215	ICC Teams	Depart ICC location and return to EOC	ICC, EOC
1230-1330	All Participants	Hotwash for Operational Periods one and two	EOC
1330	Operational Period 1 and 2 Players	End Operational Period 2.	
1330-1430	EOC Team B	Break for Lunch	

CRD – Compact Rapid Deployable
ICC – Incident Communication Center
NCS – Net Control Station
RO – Radio Officer



Pinellas ACS Hurricane Amaranth Exercise

Safety

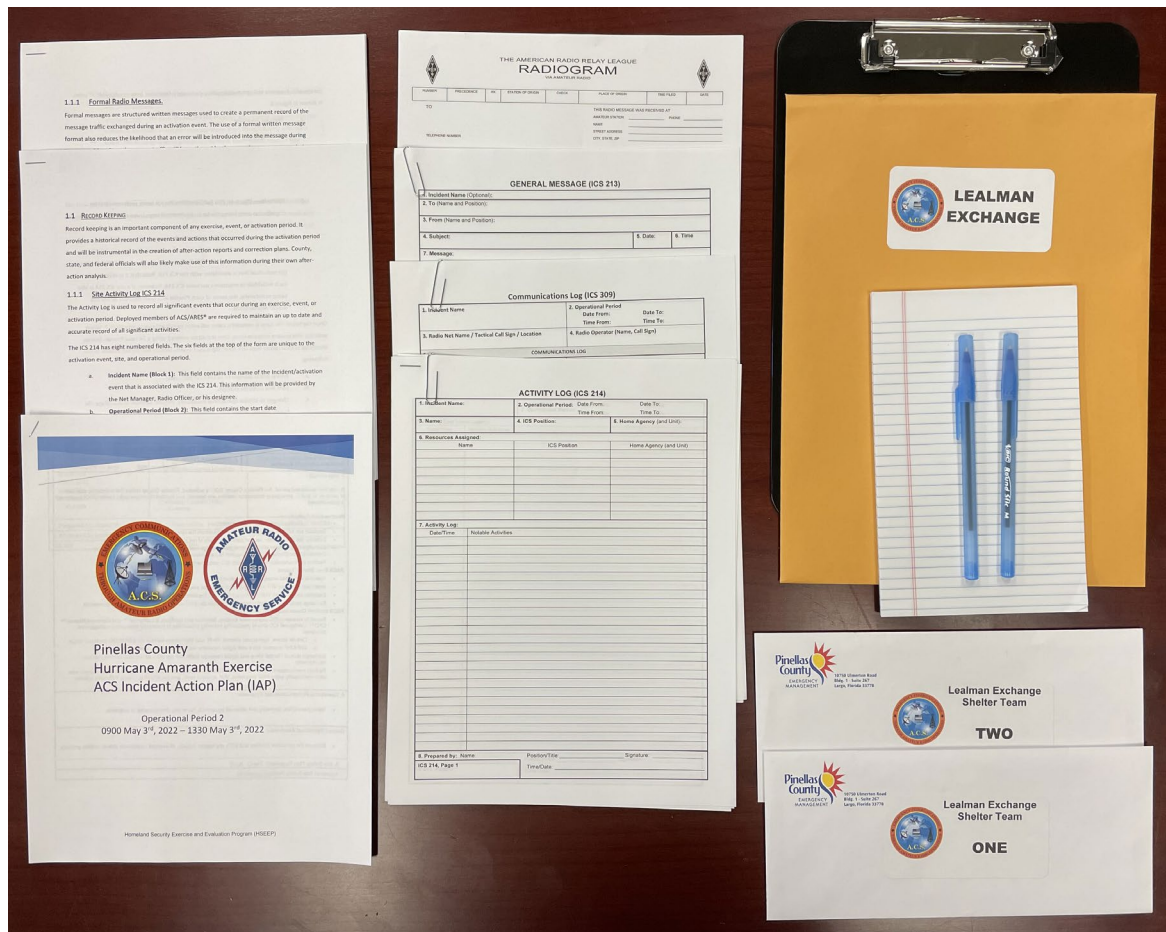


- **Safety takes priority over exercise events**
- A Safety Controller is responsible for ensuring the exercise is conducted in a safe environment; any safety concerns must be immediately reported to the Safety Controller.
- The Safety Controller and Pinellas ACS RO will determine if a real-world emergency warrants a pause in exercise play and if exercise play can be resumed.
- For an emergency that requires assistance, use the phrase [***“real-world emergency.”***]
 - Anyone who observes a participant who is seriously ill or injured will immediately notify emergency services and the closest controller, and, within reason and training, render aid.
 - Anyone aware of a real emergency will initiate the [***“real-world emergency”***] broadcast on the **ACS Tactical-Resource Net** and provide the Safety Controller and the Pinellas ACS RO with the location of the emergency and resources needed.
- Because the simulated shelters and ICCs are located outside, be sure to hydrate properly.
- ICC Teams Use **CAUTION** when extending the Cell Tower masts. DO NOT extend any mast segment beyond **Red** Stripes!



Pinellas ACS Hurricane Amaranth Exercise

ACS Exercise Team Packets



- Incident Action Plan
- Blank Forms
 - ICS 213, ICS 214, ICS 309, ARRL® Radiograms
- Clipboard
- Notepad
- Pens
- Inject Envelopes
- Job Aids
 - Record Keeping
 - Formal Radio Messages



Pinellas ACS Hurricane Amaranth Exercise

ACS Inject Envelope



Lealman Exchange: STA-1 Shelter Status Report

The EOC has requested that you provide them with a Shelter Status Report. After talking to the shelter manager, the manager provides you with the following information.

"We currently have 221 people in the shelter and have food and water for 3 days. We still have shore power but have lost cell and internet access."

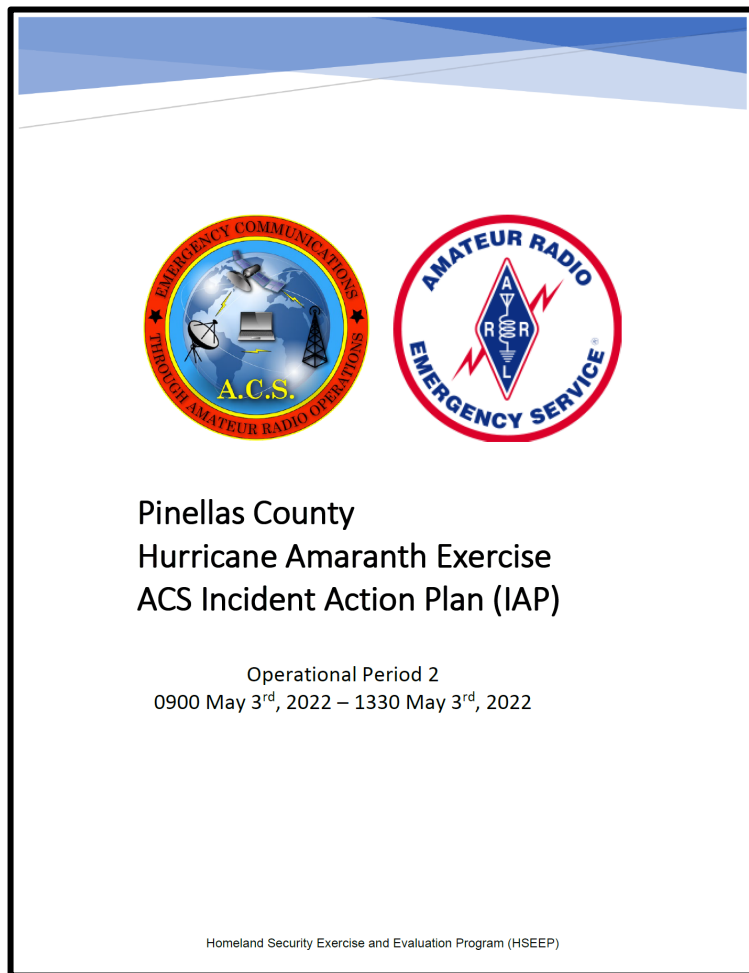
The status report is to be sent to the EOC as an informal message.

- Used to pass information to exercise teams
 - Functional Exercise not a Full-Scale Exercise
- Each team has a unique set
- Envelopes are numbered
- Teams will be told when to open an envelope
 - A local controller
 - In a received message



Pinellas ACS Hurricane Amaranth Exercise

Incident Action Plan

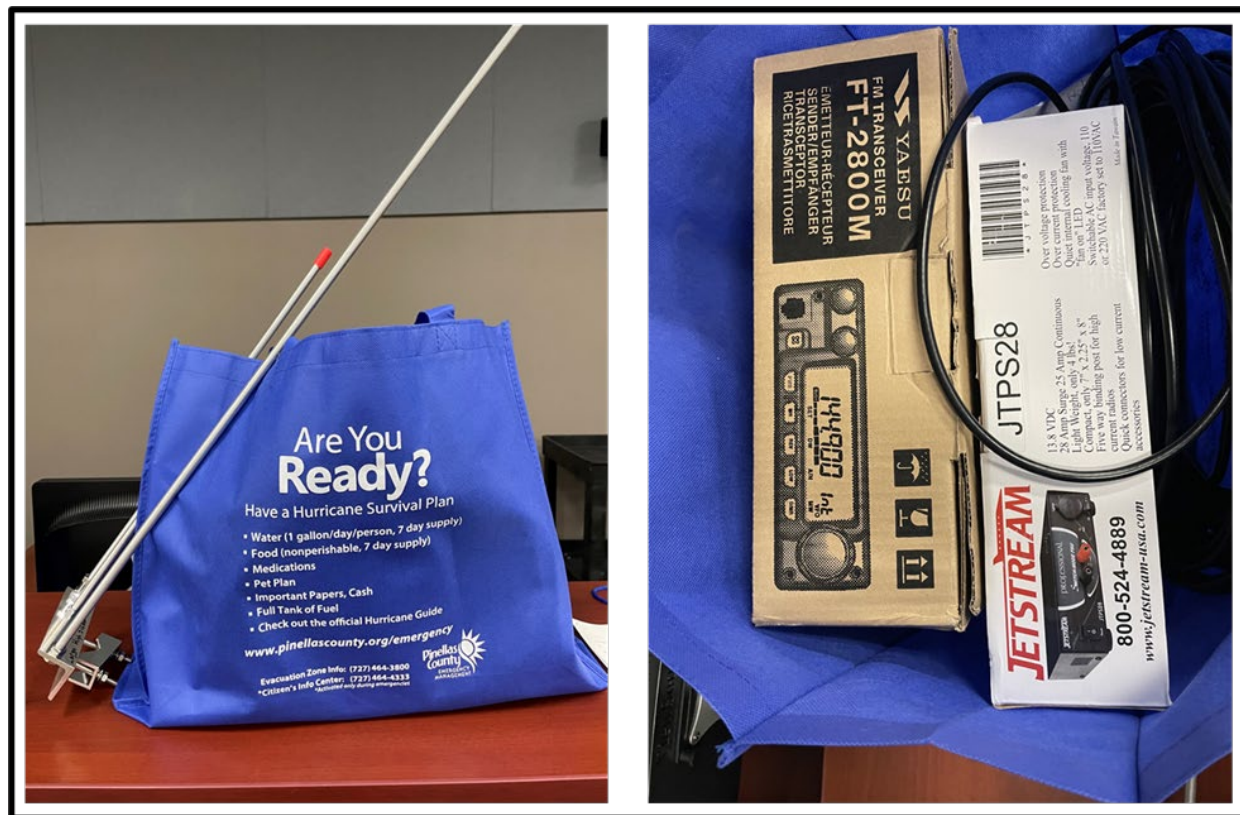


- ICS 202 Incident Objectives
- ICS 204 Assignment Lists
 - Pinellas EOC Radio Room
 - Evacuation Shelters
 - Incident Communication Centers
- ICS 205 Incident Radio Communications Plan
- ICS 205A Communications List
- ICS 207 Incident Organizational Chart
- Maps/Charts
 - Simulated Evac Shelter and ICC deployment Locations



Pinellas ACS Hurricane Amaranth Exercise

Shelter Radio Kit



- Shelter Teams will obtain Radio Kits from EOC Cache
 - Deploy to Simulated Shelter location
 - Unbox, install, configure
 - Establish communications with the EOC
- Demobilization
 - De-install, pack, and transport back to EOC Cache
 - Document discrepancies



Pinellas ACS Hurricane Amaranth Exercise

Voice Tactical Call Signs



Position No	Position	Voice Tactical Call Sign	Winlink Tactical Address
1	Tactical-Resource Net – Net Control Station (NCS)	NET CONTROL	N/A
2	Shelter Net – NCS	NET CONTROL	N/A
3	Deputy Radio Officer – Admin	PACS ADMIN	PACS-ADMIN
4	Pinellas EOC Radio Room	PINELLAS EOC	PACS-EOC
5	ICC – Tropicana Field ICS Staging Area	TROPICANA	EMPOD-1
6	ICC – Tyrone Mall Point of Distribution Site	TYRONE	EMPOD-2
7	Shelter – Bauder Elementary School	BAUDER ELEMENTARY	N/A
8	Shelter – Gulfport Elementary School	GULFPORT ELEMENTARY	N/A
9	Shelter – Lealman Exchange	LEALMAN EXCHANGE	N/A
10	Shelter – Ross Norton Recreation Center	ROSS NORTON	N/A
11	Shelter – East Lake High School	EAST LAKE	N/A
12	Shelter – Boca Ciega High School	BOCA CIEGA	N/A

- Voice FCC call sign at end of exchange



Pinellas ACS Hurricane Amaranth Exercise

Conclusion



- Meet communication objectives defined by Pinellas County
- Stage a HSEEP compliant Communications Exercise
- Train Pinellas ACS communicators in skills needed during the approach, landfall, and aftermath of a tropical cyclone
- Evaluate individual player performance against AUXCOMM and ARES® Position task book requirements

Questions?



Pinellas ACS Hurricane Amaranth Exercise

Operational Period 2



- Team Leads – Pick up your team packet
- Shelter and ICC Teams assemble and prepare for deployment
- EOC Radio Room Team – Assemble in the radio room and let me know when you are ready to establish the ***Tactical-Resource*** Net



Back-up