

**THIS IS A DRILL**



# 2024 Simulated Emergency Test

The following is the Simulated Emergency Test for the Western Massachusetts Section for the calendar year 2024. The test period will run from 0830 to 1200 local (1230-1700 Zulu) Sunday, 10 November 2024.

## **SITUATION** *(What is happening?)*

Tropical Storm Hiram formed in the waters of the Gulf of Mexico and rapidly intensified before making landfall as Hurricane Hiram on the west coast of Florida. Weakening again to Tropical Storm strength it moved rapidly northeastward towards New England.

As it approached the area Canadian high pressure blocked its further movement and heavy rainfall over the Western Massachusetts area began to fall on soil already saturated from prior storms.

Over the course of 24 hours rainfall totals across the area range from 11 to 31 inches. The resulting damage to infrastructure has left many areas isolated. Cellular, landline, roads and power are destroyed in many areas. Water systems are damaged or contaminated in many areas.

## **MISSION** *(What are we going to do about it?)*

Amateur radio operators will check in to our regular Sunday ARES Nets and report damage in their immediate area using a simplified reporting system that accounts for building damage, flooding and transportation status. An example of a report might be:

*"This is a drill. K1FFK, Berkshire County, North Adams, Notch Road. Two buildings severely damaged. One building moderately damaged. Three buildings with basement flooding. No buildings with first floor flooding. Our road is passable. This is a drill"*

Net Control Stations will collect reports from their check-in stations and forward this data out of the affected area. This can be done via email over WinLink or Telnet, internet email, a web reporting tool, via HF or DMR, or any other method that moves traffic out of the impacted area.

## **EXECUTION** *(How are we going to do it?)*

Amateur operators may generate a simulated damage report using the table below. This table is based upon the primary color of houses on your street or block. If you live in an apartment or development with the same color scheme, you may use the colors of vehicles parked to right and left of your own. The goal is to generate simulated numbers to represent damage for this exercise reporting.

|              |  |
|--------------|--|
| <b>Red</b>   | <b>Building severely damaged/uninhabitable</b> |
| <b>Green</b> | <b>Building moderately damaged/habitable</b>   |

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|               |   |
|---------------|---|
| <b>Brown</b>  | <b>Buildings with first floor or greater flooding</b> |
| <b>Blue</b>   | <b>Buildings with basement flooding</b>               |
| <b>Yellow</b> | <b>Road is blocked with debris</b>                    |

For example, your street has ten homes on it. Three are mostly red, four are mostly blue, two are mostly brown and one is green. None are yellow. You would check in to your local ARES net and your report for the SET would be:

*“This is a drill. WS1L, Berkshire County, North Adams, Church Street. Three buildings severely damaged. One building moderately damaged. Four buildings with basement flooding. Two buildings with first floor flooding. Our road is passable. This is a drill”*

For another example, you live in a condo where all the buildings are a shade of grey. When you park your vehicle the vehicles around it include one red vehicle, three green vehicles, two blue vehicles and three yellow vehicles. You would check in to your local ARES net and your report for the SET would be:

*“This is a drill. W1AW, Franklin County, Charlemont, Main Street. One building severely damaged. Three buildings moderately damaged. Two buildings with basement flooding. Our road is blocked with debris. This is a drill.”*

If you are able, please consider operating on emergency or backup power, or operating from a portable set up, or from a location away from home. Any of these adds realistic challenges to overcome.

**Sunday ARES Nets**

- 3.944 Western MA Emergency Net Sundays at 0830
- 0845 Mt Tom 146.940 127.3 Hamden/Hampshire County ARES Net
- 0850 Worcester 147.210 88.5 SW Worcester ARES Net
- 0900 Fitchburg, MA 145.450- 74.4 W1GZ repeater. Montachusett Amateur Radio Association ARES Net (Linked with Gardner 145.37 pl 136.5 and IRLP9127)
- 0900 Greylock, MA 146.910- 162.2 Western Massachusetts ARES Net
- 0915 Paxton, MA 146.970- 114.8 Worcester County ARES Net
- 0915 Mt Tom 443.200 127.3 Hamden/Hampshire UHF ARES Net
- 0915 Paxton 146.970 114.8 Worcester ARES net
- 0930 Greylock, MA 53.23-/162.2 Western Massachusetts ARES Net
- 0945 Greylock, MA 449.425-/162.2 Western Massachusetts ARES Net
- 1000 Greylock, MA 224.10 out, 222.5 in, PL 162.2 Western Massachusetts ARES Net

Please join us on Sunday, November 10<sup>th</sup> on your local ARES net!