

Eastern MA ARES Simulated Emergency Test 2020 Scenario and Guidelines



Eastern MA ARES

Operation **"Fall Fury"**

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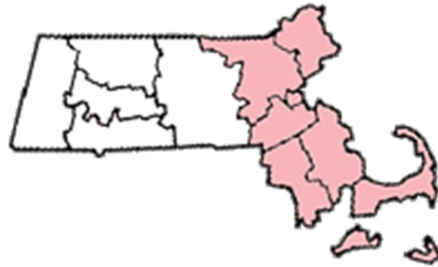
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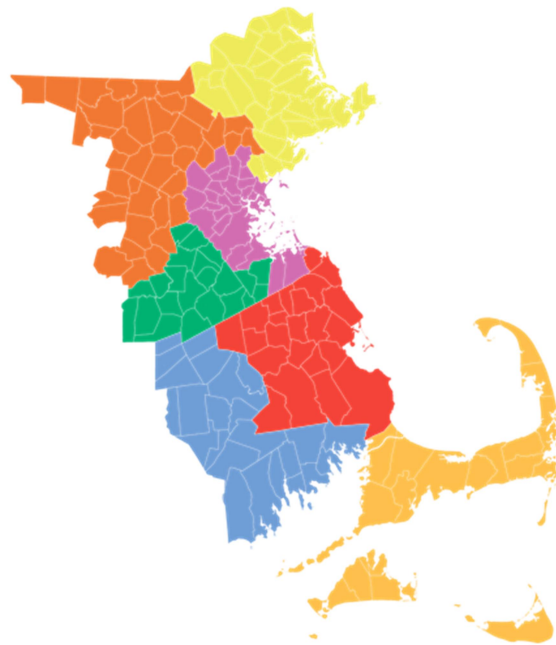
Revised pages with this draft version:

Page 7 – Correct 40m to 60m

Page 11 – Updated Expected Frequency usage with additional frequencies



Eastern MA ARES Map



Date and time of Exercise

Saturday November 14th, 2020

Setup time: 9:00am

Start Time: 10:00am

End Time: 12:00pm

Operational Duration: 2 hours

Purpose

The Eastern MA Section Amateur Radio Emergency Service will conduct an autumn operations exercise to test its capability in establishing communications with stations within its district and outside it under simulated emergency conditions. The operational exercise called **“Fall Fury”** will test the ability of several home stations and groups to communicate. The exercise will attempt to build upon the lessons learned from our past operational exercises.

Scenario

On Thursday November 12th, a category one Hurricane moved out of the SE US states and moved up the US east coast. The system moved into the area on Friday and began hitting MA/CT/RI very hard as a hybrid coastal storm using both contrast in air mass and warm water for its energy. A 952mb low is about 50 miles south of Nantucket. The system is moving very slowly at a crawl as it continues to batter the area. Winds over Cape Cod and the Islands have been gusting in the mid 90mph range with recent gust in Chatham to 100mph. The winds have lasted over multiple high tide cycles with significant damage along the coast. Similar wind damage is taking place along the MA south coast with gusts over 90mph being reported. Winds near hurricane force around 75mph are occurring along the east coast of MA north of Plymouth. Power outages in eastern MA are near 586,000 so far and are increasing rapidly. Cold air on the NW side is being drawn into the system with rain changing to snow in western CT and MA. The heavy wet snow is combining with winds to 65mph to create power outages near 470,000 in those areas as well.

As of this morning (Saturday), the situation is ongoing. MA National guard has been called out with high water vehicles to assist in the coastal flooding issues. With the high winds, Power utilities are unable to begin restoration issues at this time. Once the cold settles in, it will be difficult for those without power. Restoration times could be unusually long. MEMA and Red Cross have preparations to pursue non congregate sheltering solutions, as much as possible, for MA. Communications systems have taken a beating along the south coast/ Cape and Islands. 800 MHz system has had outages as have several commercial radio stations. ARES/RACES groups in MA have activated and are assisting as best they can. Field operations remain highly problematic during the peak of this current event and in a COVID environment. Stations will try interfacing with emergency management mainly from home stations, some interfacing with local government frequencies as well. Let's take a deep breath and get it done...Safety is job #1.

ARES groups and simulated activities

This exercise guideline is deliberately broad and generic in nature. ARES groups are free to adapt this scenario and conduct their exercise as needed for their group. With the ongoing COVID-19 situation in MA, it will be unlikely that groups will be able to operate at EOCs and other municipal locations. Any activation of shelters will be simulated and by role play. Feel free to use your home stations or mobiles for this purpose. It is likely that most of the operations involved in this exercise will utilize home stations.

Exercise Objectives

The objectives of this exercise are as follows:

- *Simulate* the activation of shelters in your area
- *Simulate* the activation of EOC stations in your area
- Establish and conduct a tactical net on simplex 2m FM/ repeater for your group
- *Simulate* contact with any Town EOC RACES stations
- Establish contact with other ARES districts where possible
- Establish an HF 75m voice net for all of MA (and potentially other areas)
- Pass an NTS type message on VHF 2 meters and/or 440mhz UHF
- Pass a SKYWARN and/or tactical message on voice 2 meters and on the HF net
- **Optional:** Pass a SKYWARN report using VHF/HF Winlink to a collection station
TBA
- **Optional:** Send a Red Cross ARC-213 message to a Red Cross predetermined clearinghouse tactical station (ARC-NORTHHEAST) by HF or VHF Winlink.
(Will be referenced out to another document for procedure)
- **Optional:** Send messages by HF Winlink to a designated ARES station
- **Optional:** Send messages by VHF/UHF RMS Winlink if you have no HF digital or simply want to practice Winlink locally
- **Optional:** Send messages locally by VHF NBEMS
- **Optional:** Send HF messages by NBEMS (experimental)
- Check in on the NEW-ENG3 9123 Echolink node

Operational Ground Rules

ARES/RACES

ARES/RACES groups can fully adapt and change their individual plans to suit the needs of the local group.

Message Handling

Message handling, on voice, will occur on 2 meters and on HF. Local groups are encouraged to setup an NTS net on 2 meters and get the messages into the system. On HF, messages will be tactical in nature and may include SKYWARN reports for NWS.

Setup and Timeline

Setup time will be 9am. The exercise will begin promptly at 10am. It will last approximately 2 hours and will end at 1200pm. Timelines may be adjusted accordingly in response to turnout and early completions of primary objectives.

Operational Disclaimers

Due to the proliferation of radio scanners and the possibility of misconstrued information by the public, all tactical voice messages *that can be misconstrued* will be preceded by the words **“This is a Drill”**. Any NTS formal messages will have the words **“This is a drill X”** as the first five words in the body text. In this time of national public concern, we must make all efforts to ensure that the general populace is not misled and that amateur radio is not portrayed in a negative manner.

NET and mode of operations

HF voice operation

An HF net will be started on 75m in MA. It will take tactical messages and SKYWARN reports. 60m will be the backup for 75m for testing purposes and if 75m is not viable for operations. Messages can also include situation reports from your district or ARES group. They can also be lists of participating stations and operators so we have them for the record.

VHF/UHF voice operation

ARES groups are requested to set up voice nets as you normally do for exercises. These nets can be repeater, simplex or any combination of the two. Content of the voice components of the exercise will be set by the local ARES group.

HF Winlink operation (Optional)

ARES groups may optionally try to pass messages to a designated receiving station (KD1CY@winlink.org) by Winlink email on HF. Stations would try to find a winlink HF station that they can reach. This could be a challenge for some considering recent band conditions, but may be worth considering. You can find a map and list of HF winlink RMS stations on the winlink.org website. Messages can include shelter status updates, situation reports from your district or ARES group. They can also be lists of participating stations and operators so we have them for the record.

VHF/UHF Winlink operation (Optional)

There will be a Winlink VHF/UHF message component. ARES groups will send a Winlink message to their local coordinator or District coordinator. Messages can include situation reports from your district or ARES group. They can also be lists of participating stations and operators so we have them for the record.

SKYWARN VHF Winlink operation (Optional)

There will be a WINLINK VHF SKYWARN operation. ARES groups should send a severe weather report to a SKYWARN collection station. Station **WX1BOX**. The severe weather report is a form in Winlink express under standard templates, weather forms.

Red Cross Winlink operation (Optional)

There will be a Red Cross Winlink Component. This will be sending an ARC-213 form by either HF or VHF Winlink. The template form is inside Winlink express. The message will be sent to a tactical Winlink address that Red Cross has established. Here in the Northeast, it is ARCNORTHEAST. More on this section will be covered by a document created by CT Section Emergency Coordinator Mike Walters W8ZY. It will be sent out with revisions of this document. Additional revisions on this part of the exercise will also likely be added here in succeeding drafts.

VHF NBEMS operation (Optional)

ARES groups may optionally consider attempting to send messages and forms locally by VHF/UHF NBEMS. Frequencies would be determined by the local ARES group. Messages can include situation reports from your district or ARES group. They can also be lists of participating stations and operators so we have them for the record.

HF NBEMS operation (Optional)

We can also try to attempt an HF NBEMS operation on 75m. This will be experimental and can convey some of the same information to be sent as listed earlier in the VHF NBEMS section. We will be using 3583.5 kHz for this part of the exercise. The start mode will be Thor 22 with a 1500 Hz center. Messages can be text or Flmsg forms. This section will be experimental and optional.

Echolink operation

Echolink will be operational for this exercise. It will be the New-Eng3 node 9123. It will be monitored by several ARES leaders and will serve as an online component.

NTS operation

Local groups are encouraged to pass some NTS traffic into the system. How that is done will be left to the discretion of the local group.

Minute Man Repeater System operation

The Minute Man Repeater system (MMRA) will be active at 1000 AM. There will be a net conducted that can take NTS or other traffic during the exercise.

Metrics for participation

All ARES groups participating in the exercise are encouraged to send a list of participants and activities by email after the exercise so a good overview of participants can be established. Send to your local ARES EC and/or DEC. If you are unaware of who your leader is, Visit the Eastern MA ARES website at <https://ema.arrl.org/ares/>

Group Operations

There will be several groups operating during this exercise. They are RACES/ARES or some combination thereof. They will be added below in succeeding drafts of this document.

Exercise Frequency Usage

Two meter local voice nets: - The following is a list of key frequencies with any additional frequencies at the discretion of local ARES Group

147.000-Dartmouth Repeater (PL: 67.0 Hz)
147.180-Bridgewater Repeater (PL: 67.0 Hz)
146.895-Walpole Repeater (PL: 123.0 Hz)
145.470-Danvers Repeater (PL: 136.5 Hz)
146.895-Walpole Repeater (PL: 123.0 Hz)
146.985-Blue Hill Science Center – Milton, MA (linked) (PL 88.5 Hz)
449.125-Blue Hill Science Center – Milton MA (linked) (PL: 146.2 Hz)
446.325-New England Sci-Tech - Natick, MA (PL: 146.2 Hz)
147.435-Western Middlesex ARES Simplex (PL: 110.9 Hz)
146.580-Cape Cod ARES Simplex (No PL)

The MMRA Network will be utilized at the section level – a link to the repeaters linked up is listed at the end of the frequency usage document

Two meter local NTS net: At discretion of local ARES Group – At the section level – the MMRA Network will be utilized for section NTS traffic

UHF voice and/or NTS net: At the discretion of the local ARES Group

VHF/UHF NBEMS: At the discretion of the local ARES Group

Winlink Express VHF: 145.090 FM

Primary region wide 75m HF Operations: 3930 kHz LSB (Primary)

Primary region wide 60m HF Operations: 5330.5 kHz USB (Secondary)

HF Winlink stations: See online list on the Winlink.org site

HF NBEMS 75m: 3583.5 kHz Start Mode: Thor 22 1500 Hz center

Echolink: NEW-ENG3 node 9123 IRLP: 9123

Minute Man Repeater system (MMRA) linked repeaters VHF/UHF (see MMRA.org for repeater list):

http://www.mmra.org/repeaters/repeater_index_by_linkstate.html