



Piedmont Triad AmRRON ExSum Hurricane Florence (Update 4)

Key Judgments:

Hurricane Florence has made landfall on the North Carolina coast.

There are numerous requests for rescues coming into 911 and the Cajun Navy support systems. Volunteer organizations are beginning rescue operations as conditions permit.

AmRRON members are conducting nets according to the AmRRON SOI. See the AmRRON website for the most current information regarding nets. See References below for relevant links.

As of Friday, 14 September at 0300hrs Zulu, the AmCON is being raised to Level-1 (Active Incident – Regional) due to the landfall of Hurricane Florence. CONDITIONS: Power outages and extensive damage along the coast are being reported. Flooding and wind damage is expected to cause widespread sustained power outages.



Introduction:

Hurricane Florence is dumping rain on North Carolina and pushing a storm surge taller than most humans onto communities near the coast. The center of the eye of the hurricane made landfall in Wrightsville, North Carolina, at about 7:45 a.m. Friday and was moving slowly westward just south of Wilmington. Some areas in North Carolina have already had up to 15 inches of rain.

Substantiation:

2018-09-14-1532Z – wxii12.com: Water rescues underway after Hurricane Florence makes landfall in North Carolina

<https://www.wxii12.com/article/hurricane-florence-category-1-storm/22998590>

It remains a Category 1 hurricane with top sustained winds of 80 mph (130 kph), but stronger wind gusts have been reported.

Florence was centered about 20 miles (30 kilometers) southwest of Wilmington, North Carolina, and about 55 miles (90 kilometers) east-northeast of Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. It was crawling west-southwest at 3 mph (6kph), lifting huge amounts of ocean moisture and dumping it far from the coast. Hurricane-force winds extend outward up to 70 miles (110 km) from the center and tropical-storm-force winds extend outward up to 195 miles (315 km).

2018-09-14-1403Z – wxii12.com: Hurricane Florence knocks out power for about 300,000 in North Carolina

<https://www.wxii12.com/article/hurricane-florence-power-outages/23122602>

More than 300,000 people are in the dark as Hurricane Florence causes widespread outages on the coast of North Carolina. The North Carolina Emergency Management said that as of 6 a.m. there are more than 321,000 customers without power in the state. The top counties affected are Beaufort, Carteret, Craven, Onslow and Pamlico.



2018-09-14-0900Z – weather.com: New Bern to 150 Stranded Residents: 'We Are Coming to Get You'
<https://weather.com/storms/hurricane/news/2018-09-14-new-bern-north-carolina-rescues-neuse-river>

- At least 200 people have already been rescued.
- The National Hurricane Center says the Neuse River is recording more than 10 feet of inundation.

At least 150 people were awaiting rescue in New Bern early Friday morning as Hurricane Florence lashed the North Carolina coast with strong winds and life-threatening storm surge.

As of 5 a.m. Friday, 200 people had already been rescued as waters rose on the Neuse and Trent rivers, according to Colleen Roberts, a city public information officer. New Bern, a city of about 30,000 residents, saw significant storm surge flooding as the rivers overflowed their banks and swept into town. A flash flood emergency was declared in the area that includes Carteret, Craven, Pamlico and Jones counties Friday morning.

2018-09-14-1422Z – wxii12.com: Hurricane Florence makes landfall in North Carolina
<https://www.wxii12.com/article/hurricane-florence-category-1-storm/22998590>

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Fox Company (Forward Observer) Reports:

2018-09-14-0005E: Oaks Rd and Glenburie Ave., New Bern are under water. Channel 12 had to evac. New Bern sewer treatment plant is under water...code red call went out telling people not to flush toilets or take showers conserve drinking water.. 10ft flood waters

2018-09-14-0920E: Looting Confirmed: Several people in Brunswick County have been arrested for felony B&E. Many reports of looting in Brunswick County.

2018-09-14-0936E: Confirmed: Tornado on ground in Plymouth, NC

2018-09-14-1158E: Oak Island under Day Time Curfew.... Police Scanner

*Multiple reports of trees and power lines down

*Multiple reports of flooding

AmRRON SitReps:

2018-09-14-1100Z K4OBI: Iredell County NC is requesting hams for their EOC... the digital trunking system is down, ARES needs assistance if anyone can help or know someone that can. The are attempting comms on 3.923 right now if anyone can help out.

2018-09-14-1046Z km4ozx in Belhaven reports high water. WAVY TV reports 10' surge in Cherry Pt area. "Flooding was a major problem to the north of New Bern in Belhaven, where the waters of the Pungo River had risen to the windows of some people's homes."

<https://www.wavy.com/weather/hurricane/florence-thrashes-the-coast-of-north-carolina/1442960862>



Outlook:

Florence has weakened to a category 1 hurricane. It will continue to drop large amounts of rain and cause significant storm surge along the coast line. Large amounts of rainfall will occur in the interior areas of the Carolinas and Georgia. Weather services should be monitored for area specific forecasts.

Emergency services have began rescue efforts in some coastal areas. Hundreds of people have been rescued, while hundreds more are currently known to be waiting for rescue services. These rescue efforts will continue for days.

Power outages and flooding are expected to continue to spread across the Carolinas and Georgia.

Band conditions are not favorable at this time for HF radio operations. All available AmRRON operators are encouraged to help out with regularly scheduled nets. The more operators participating, the stronger and more effective the net will be at relaying sitreps and emergency traffic.

Potential Hazards Being Monitored:

- EPA assessing vulnerability of at least 9 toxic sites in Florence's projected path:
<https://www.cnn.com/2018/09/11/politics/epa-florence-toxic-sites/index.html>
- In Hurricane Florence's path 2m tons of toxic coal ash loom over Lumberton:
<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2018/sep/13/in-hurricane-florences-path-2m-tons-of-coal-ash-loom-over-lumberton>
- Hog Farmers Scramble to Drain Waste Pools Ahead Of Hurricane Florence:
<https://www.npr.org/sections/thesalt/2018/09/11/646790793/hog-farmers-scramble-to-drain-waste-pools-ahead-of-hurricane-florence>

References:

- 1) Previous PT AmRRON Executive Summaries related to Hurricane Florence
 - ExSum – PT AmRRON 2018-09-08-A Tropical Storm/Hurricane Conditions for NC in the Coming Week
 - ExSum – PT AmRRON 2018-09-10-A Hurricane Florence
 - ExSum – PT AmRRON 2018-09-11-A Hurricane Florence (Update)
 - ExSum – PT AmRRON 2018-09-12-A Hurricane Florence (Update 2)
 - ExSum – PT AmRRON 2018-09-12-A Hurricane Florence (Update 3)
- 2) AmRRON Communications Condition Level: <https://amrron.com/net-resourcestools/amcon-amrron-communications-condition-level/>
- 3) AmRRON Tropical Storm/Hurricane for Coming Week: <https://amrron.com/2018/09/09/tropical-storm-hurricane-conditions-for-nc-in-the-coming-week/>
- 4) NWS: National Hurricane Preparedness: <https://www.weather.gov/wrn/hurricane-preparedness>
- 5) NOAA: National Hurricane Center:
https://www.nhc.noaa.gov/refresh/graphics_at1+shtml/092830.shtml?cone#contents