



The Salvation Army

Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network
USA National Headquarters



SITUATION REPORT – HURRICANE FLORENCE

Sunday, 09 September 2018

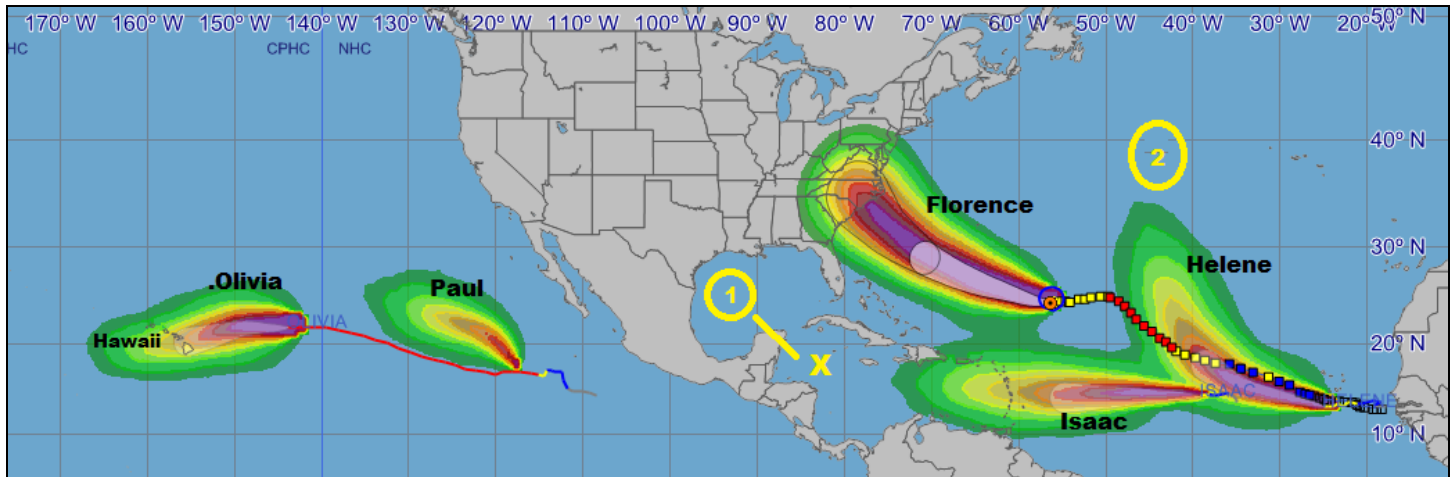
SATERN ACTIVATION:

This Initial Situation Report is to prepare SATERN for activation later this week in response to Hurricane Florence.

No activation is currently in place but an activation is being planned based on SATERN’s Hurricane Activation Protocols. The protocol is for one or more Nets within the SATERN Network to be activated in the event of a forecasted landfall by a major hurricane (category 3, 4 or 5) within the area covered by SATERN.

Until the activation occurs, all SATERN Nets will continue to maintain their regular schedules.

SITUATION REPORT:



This Situation Report will discuss not only Hurricane Florence, which is currently the most prominent threat, but other storms that pose a threat to parts of the United States and the Caribbean.

Hurricane Florence:

Hurricane Florence is moving westward at 7 mph with sustained winds of 85 mph as a moderate category 1 hurricane. However, by Monday (10 September), it is forecast to have dramatically strengthened to major hurricane status (category 3, 4 or 5). It is “expected to remain an extremely dangerous major hurricane through Thursday, 13 September 2018 when it makes landfall, possibly as a category 3 hurricane late that night. Hurricane winds currently extend up to 25 miles from the center and tropical force winds up to 125 miles from center.

It is forecast that Hurricane Florence may make a direct landfall, possible along the North-South Carolina border. Tropical force winds may occur along the East Coast as early as Wednesday evening, 12 September. This could be an extended event with heavy rainfall lasting for up to five days.

The Salvation Army is already beginning to plan for major deployments of personnel and equipment. If Florence meets forecast expectations, SATERN will be activated on Thursday morning per the later activation discussion below.

Hurricane Helene:

Hurricane Helene is still SW of the Cabo Verde islands of the West coast of Africa. It is a minimal hurricane with sustained winds of 75 mph moving West at 13 mph. So far, the vast majority of the spaghetti models have Hurricane Helene moving northwest out into the Atlantic and posing no threat to land other than some rain on the Cabo Verde islands.

There is not SATERN activation planned for Hurricane Helene.

Tropical Storm Isaac:

Tropical Storm Isaac is currently moving W at 12 mph with sustained winds of 70 mph. It is expected to become a hurricane by Monday, 10 September 2018. The concern for Isaac is that about half of the hurricane prediction models have it moving into the eastern Caribbean Sea by Wednesday night or sometime on Thursday (12-13 September) as either a minimal hurricane or a tropical storm. Although the other half of the models have it moving northward into the Atlantic Ocean, the consensus is that it will move into the Caribbean Sea.

SATERN activation for this storm is unlikely even if it does move into the eastern Caribbean or even the Gulf of Mexico because it is highly unlikely that it will reach major hurricane status which is a primary criterion for SATERN Net activation.

Tropical Disturbance 1:

Tropical Disturbance 1 is a combination of an upper level trough and a tropical wave over the northwestern Caribbean Sea producing a large area of disorganized showers and thunderstorms. Conditions may become more conducive for development as the system moves northwest into the Gulf of Mexico in a couple of days. There is a 0% chance of development in the next two days and a 20% chance in the next 5 days.

There are no plans to activate SATERN for this storm.

Tropical Disturbance 2:

Tropical Disturbance 2 is a non-tropical area of low pressure forecast to form in the mid-Atlantic in two or 3 days with a 0% chance of development in 2 days and 30% chance in 5 days.

There are no plans to activate SATERN for this storm.

Tropical Storm Paul (Eastern Pacific):

Tropical Storm (TS) Paul is moving at 10 mph to the northwest and is expected to gradually weaken and dissipate over the next several days without threat to any land.

There are no plans to activate SATERN for this storm.

Hurricane Olivia (Central Pacific):

Hurricane Olivia is a minimal category 1 hurricane with sustained winds of 75 mph moving west at 14 mph. It is forecast to weaken to a tropical storm in the next few days. Although it is currently forecast to travel across the State of Hawaii near the Big Island of Hawaii on Wednesday (12 September), it will do so as a moderate tropical storm with maximum sustained winds of 60-65 mph.

There are no plans to activate SATERN for this storm.

SATERN (Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network):

At this time, SATERN plans to activate for Hurricane Florence from 1200 (CT) through 1600 (CT) on Thursday, 13 September 2018 on 14.265 MHz with a backup frequency of 14.312 MHz. It will then be activated on Friday and Saturday immediately after the morning training Net (about 1100 (CT) until propagation no longer supports it or the Net Manager closes it for the day. It is unlikely that the Net will be activated beyond Saturday unless there has been significant damage to the communications infrastructure with a resultant increase in Health & Welfare messages on the Net or unless The Salvation Army or one of our partners asks SATERN to remain activated longer. There are no current plans to be activated for any of the other storms unless they unexpectedly dramatically strengthen.

Net Manager Ken Gilliland (AG6SV) for the International SATERN SSB Net and his team are currently putting together a list of Net Control Operators and Net Relay Stations for this activation. More information concerning this activation will be available during the daily training nets and on SATERN.org as well as email Situation Reports and the national Emergency Disaster Services (EDS) website at Disaster.SalvationArmyUSA.org. People interested in participating can check into the International SATERN SSB Net from 0900 to 1100 (CT) each day or by contacting the Net Manager(s) at WB5ALM@Outlook.com.

NATIONAL AMATEUR RADIO PARTNERS:**American Radio Relay League (ARRL):**

No current information is available.

Hurricane Watch Net (HWN):

HWN will have a conference call on Monday, 10 September 2018 to make their activation plans. Further information about when they will activate will be posted as soon as possible on their website, Facebook and by email. They will operate on either or both 14.325 MHz and 7.268 MHz depending upon band conditions and time of day.

Voice Over IP Weather / Hurricane Net (VoIPWX.net):

The VoIP Hurricane Net will activate sometime late Wednesday evening or early Thursday morning.

National Hurricane Center (WX4NHC):

WX4NHC will likely activate on Thursday morning, monitoring the Hurricane Watch Net. It is possible that they may activate as early as Wednesday if either Hurricane Florence speeds up or Tropical Storm Isaac becomes a hurricane and threatens the Antilles on Wednesday.

U.S. Army Military Auxiliary Radio System (MARS):

No information is currently available.

SUMMARY:

There are currently five (5) active named tropical systems in the Atlantic and Pacific Basins and two unnamed disturbances in the Atlantic Basin. Of these, only one – Hurricane Florence - currently poses a major threat to interests within the area in which SATERN can be of service.

Hurricane Florence is currently forecast to make landfall in the Carolinas as a potential major hurricane that may stall over those states and produce significant rainfall. There is a potential for significant or catastrophic damage from Hurricane Florence.

As a result, SATERN will activate for this event on Thursday, 13 September 2018, at 1200 (CT) for four hours. It will reactivate all day after the morning training Nets on Friday, 14 September and Saturday, 15 September. If the impact to the communications infrastructure has been catastrophic and there is a recognized need to remain active beyond Saturday, then plans will be made to do so as needed.

The Salvation Army Emergency Disaster Services is currently working on plans to deploy and stage significant resources from around the Southern Territory (the 15 southeastern states) in preparation for a potentially major response following landfall.

Other national Amateur Radio partners are also expecting to activate for both Hurricane Florence and possibly Tropical Storm Isaac, if it reaches and maintains hurricane status as it enters the eastern Caribbean Sea.

There will be additional Situation Reports published as needed.

Respectfully,



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