



# The Salvation Army

## Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network USA National Headquarters



### SITUATION REPORT – HURRICANE FLORENCE

Tuesday, 11 September 2018

#### **ACTIVATION NOTICE for SATERN (Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network):**

The Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network (SATERN) will 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. Assessment of the need for continued activation beyond Saturday will be made by SATERN leadership based upon:

1. Reports of major damage, especially to the communications infrastructure.
2. A continued significant amount of Emergency, Priority or Health & Welfare messages being handled.
3. Reports of increased needs for auxiliary communications.
4. A request from The Salvation Army or one of our partners to continue.

The primary missions of the Net will be:

1. Receipt and delivery of Health & Welfare messages outbound from the impacted areas.
2. Support of The Salvation Army if needed or requested.
3. Support of our partners, including emergency communications partners, if needed or requested.

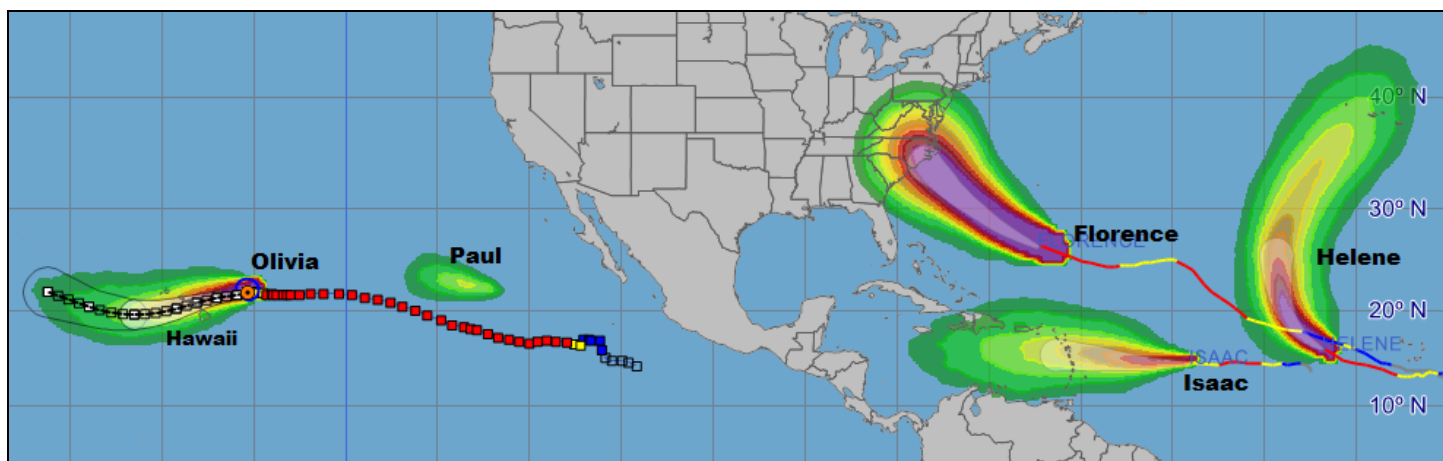
The leadership of the International SATERN SSB Net, led by Net Manager Ken Gilliland (AG6SV), are currently putting together a list of Net Control Operators and Net Relay Stations for this activation. More information concerning this activation will be available during the daily training nets and on 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 contact the Net leadership team at WB5ALM@Outlook.com.

This activation beginning on Thursday, 13 September is being initiated 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.

The Salvation Army is beginning to stage personnel and equipment in major deployments to North Carolina and Virginia. These assets are coming not only from the North-South Carolina (NSC) and National Capital-Virginia (NCV) Divisions but other Divisions within the Southern Territory (the 15 southeastern states). Depending upon the scope of the impact, it is possible that assistance may be requested from the other Territories in North America as well.

Liaisons have been deployed to the State EOCs for North and South Carolina and Virginia as well as the FEMA Regional Response Coordination Center (RRCC) for FEMA Region IV in Atlanta, GA, and to the National Response Coordination Center (NRCC) at FEMA Headquarters in Washington, D.C.

SATERN Net Control operators or Net Managers should immediately provide any information coming out of the impacted areas on the International SATERN SSB Net directly to the National SATERN Liaison Bill Feist by text at his cell phone and by email (see signature block for both). That information will be immediately forwarded to Southern Territory Headquarters and National Headquarters to be passed on to the FEMA Region IV RRCC and FEMA NRCC.

**SITUATION REPORT:**

This Situation Report will discuss not only Hurricane Florence, which is currently the most prominent threat, but the other storms currently active in the Atlantic and Pacific Basins.

**Hurricane Florence:**

Hurricane Florence is moving WNW at 15 mph with sustained winds slightly greater than 130 mph as a minimum category 4 hurricane. It is expected to strengthen and make landfall late on Thursday, 13 September as an “extremely dangerous major hurricane”. Hurricane winds currently extend up to 40 miles from the center and tropical force winds up to 150 miles from center.

It is forecast that Hurricane Florence will make a direct landfall in the Carolinas – most likely in the mid-to northern portion of North Carolina. Tropical force winds will likely occur along the East Coast by Thursday morning with hurricane force winds by that afternoon.

Storm surge of 2 to 12 feet along with large, destructive waves is expected along portions of the East Coast from southern Virginia through much of North Carolina.

Once it makes landfall, Florence is expected to stall and drop torrential rain with total accumulations of up to 15 to 20 inches and isolated amounts of up to 30 inches over portions of northern South Carolina and most of North Carolina and Virginia. This rainfall will likely last through at least Saturday resulting in life-threatening flash and river flooding.

SATERN activation plans for Hurricane Florence are discussed above in this report.

**Hurricane Helene:**

Hurricane Helene is currently moving WNW at 14 mph with sustained winds of 110 mph making it a maximum category 2 hurricane. Some strengthening is expected today, Tuesday, 11 September, but it will begin to weaken after that. Helene is expected to move northward out into the mid-Atlantic Ocean and not threaten any major land areas.

There is no SATERN activation planned for Hurricane Helene.

**Tropical Storm Isaac:**

Tropical Storm Isaac is currently moving west at 14 mph with sustained winds of 70 mph making it a powerful tropical storm. Gradual strengthening is possible and it may be a minimal category 1 hurricane by the time it reaches the Lesser Antilles on Thursday, 13 September. Isaac is expected to produce rainfall amounts of 2 to 4 inches with isolated local amounts of up to 6 inches.

About half of the hurricane path models have Isaac moving into the western and then eastern Caribbean with only one or two showing it moving into the Gulf of Mexico.

Although SATERN will not be activated specifically for this storm, it will monitor for any Emergency, Priority or Health & Welfare messages coming from areas impacted by Isaac while it is activated for Hurricane Florence.

**Tropical Disturbance 1:**

Tropical Disturbance 1 is a large surface trough interacting with an upper-level low pressure system. The system is showing signs of organization and may become a tropical depression by Thursday or Friday (13-14 September). There is a potential for landfall in northeastern Mexico, Texas and Louisiana. There is a 60% chance of development within 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 system forecast to form in the mid-Atlantic. It is possible that it could develop into a tropical or sub-tropical depression by the end of this week. It is unlikely to impact land.

There are no plans to activate SATERN for this storm.

**Tropical Depression Paul (Eastern Pacific):**

Tropical Depression (TD) Paul is a weakening tropical storm with sustained winds of 35 mph moving WNW at 10 mph. It is expected to continue weakening and dissipate over the next several days without threat to land.

There are no plans to activate SATERN for this storm.

**Hurricane Olivia (Central Pacific):**

Hurricane Olivia is a moderate category 1 hurricane with sustained winds of 85 mph moving west at 15 mph. Although it is currently forecast to travel across the State of Hawaii near the Big Island of Hawaii on Tuesday (11 September), it is not likely to cause any major damage and the National Hurricane Center has issued its final advisory on this storm already.

There are no plans to activate SATERN for this storm.

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

South Carolina ARES and Hawaii ARES are preparing to respond to Hurricanes Florence and Olivia respectively. ARRL HQ will be deploying some HamAid kits to South Carolina ARES in support of their Rapid Response Teams and may deploy some more to Virginia ARES. The ARRL is still waiting to hear from their ARES units in North Carolina and Maryland. Due to personnel considerations, W1AW will only be available on a very limited basis. Visitors who want to use W1AW from now through the weekend will be asked to not operate on 40 or 20 meters.

A DMR network in Guam was activated as Typhoon Mangkhut passed by with winds up to 115 mph.

**Hurricane Watch Net (HWN):**

HWN is at a Level 3 Alert status. HWN plans to activate their Net at 1100 (ET) on Wednesday, 12 September using both 14.325 MHz and 7.268 MHz simultaneously due to the Class 2 Geomagnetic storm forecasted to begin on Monday.

**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 currently plans to activate from 1800 Hrs (Eastern) on Wednesday, 12 September through 1800 Hrs Friday, 14 September. That may change as conditions warrant..

**Military Auxiliary Radio System (MARS):**

U.S. Army MARS in Region 4 (southeast U.S.) continues their internal readiness and are monitoring the preparedness actions and activations of the Hurricane Watch Net and SATERN. Regions 3 and 6 are in support of Region 4 and prepared to monitor HWN and SATERN as well.

USAF MARS is doing the same as U.S. Army MARS. Additionally, they are currently exercising their capabilities in Regions 1-4 to collect real-time data (WXBOS, County or METAR and TAF reports).

There are no DoD requests for support at this time.

**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 major hurricane that may stall over those states and produce significant rainfall. There is a potential for significant or catastrophic damage from Hurricane Florence.

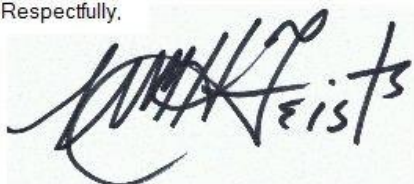
As a result, SATERN will activate for this event on Thursday, 13 September 2018, at 1200 (CT) for four hours. It will reactivate all day after the morning training Nets on Friday, 14 September and Saturday, 15 September. If the impact to the communications infrastructure has been catastrophic and there 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 deploying and staging significant resources from around the Southern Territory (the 15 southeastern states) in preparation for a 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,



**WILLIAM H. FEIST III, CEM - WB8BZH**

Divisional Disaster Liaison

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