

## Preparing for Hurricanes and Winter Storms, by KD5BJ

Hurricanes and Winter Storms are very different from each other: the former come in the summer, the latter in winter; the former bring high winds, severe thunderstorms and rain on the east side of them, dry hot air on their west side, the latter bring snow, ice, cold temperatures and their effect are about uniform where-ever they hit.

They also have things in common. Both can bring lack of power, lack of communications, and impassible roads for example.

We have been warned that this hurricane season may be more severe than normal, due to the exceedingly warmer waters in the ocean; and that this winter may be wet and icy cold. Even though, true, forecasters have been proven wrong in the past, as ARES and RACES members we need to be prepared to respond to these possible threats.

As we heard from previous trainings, Family First is a must before any of us can help our neighbor. Secondly, we need to be ready to assist our County, or nearby counties, when asked, for assistance. Here below are some tips we can use to prepare ourselves if an extreme event, hot or freezing, visits Lee County.

As individuals:

Among other things, we should remove possible tree limbs that might fall on our home, vehicles, and, of course, antennas. We need to have water and canned or shelf -ready food for at least two weeks in the house. We need to have all needed medicines and prescriptions on hand; photos, meds and vaccination records for our pets; bank, loan documents, and all certifications should we need to evacuate. Keep our vehicles' tanks full, as well as the tanks for our generator and gas heaters of any kind.

If we have livestock, we need to make sure we have feed and hay for at least a few weeks; coverage, natural or man-made shelter, and an alternative way to deliver water. We might want to consider Crop Insurance, the Livestock indemnity Program and other programs offered by our local Farm Service Agency in La Grange. If in need to evacuate our livestock, we need to gather purchase records, vaccination records, and to check in advance with the State Veterinarian if we cross state lines. For livestock and pet resources I added links at the bottom of this training which will be on our website.

We should build, and regularly test, our own backup system such as:

- Generators
- Solar (charger, controller, panels, batteries)
- Wind (charger, controller, panels, batteries)
- Battery bank expansion, upgrades in battery types.

Sources to help in this are the videos on U-Tube by OH8STN on Emergency Backup Power, and Grid Down Emergency Communications. I added those links on the printed copy of this training.

As ARES members, as part of our service we would, among the rest:

- Give situational reports to the Lee Co OEM and/or Sheriff's Office
- Report on the net road conditions and traffic conditions
- Report power and water outages
- Report downed power lines
- Support County or city 911 Dispatch
- Assist radio hams with instructions and information
- Give public statement announcements
- Support other non-governmental organizations such as the Red Cross

We do so by:

- Scheduling Net Control, backup net control, and loggers.
- Find a way, maybe through google sheet, to have ICS 309 forms, with automatic time stamps that we all can share,
- Another Google sheet with schedules, the roles, and the activities that ARES members have signed up for the 24 hour period.

A net, or maybe more than one, may last 24 hours over a period of a few days. Because we are only a few with other obligations, so must prepare by involving other county ARES groups.

We need to complete, as we are already doing, an AREDN mesh, so if the internet goes down we can keep at least sharing documents among ourselves. It will be prudent to copy the 309 regularly and often on the hard drive if internet totally fails.

We also might want prepare a net script before the event, so that NC has clarity. We need to remember that the net script may be shared with County, regional, and state officials and other non-governmental organizations. The net script should contain at a minimum

1. NC station ID
2. Name of the event and purpose of the net
3. Clear direction of what the net is looking for in the way of reports
4. Clear concise instructions if any instructions are given
5. Other frequencies we may switch to if necessary

We might have to support the EOC, dispatch centers, Fire Stations, and the Red Cross. We might become the only communication hub should everything fail.

We need to get ready by making sure that the 147.24 repeater has enough backup power to sustain the operations. As of today, it is backed up by a 100Ah battery thanks to W5TRL and NA5RC.

We might need to be ready to use other ways of communicating other than repeaters, like Simplex, NVIS, Winlink, and other digital methods, and become proficient with those.

We need to think about a new generator for the EmComm trailer and sell the current one. The Emcomm trailer might be deployed and function as a repeater.

October is the Simulated Emergency Test month. We may want to plan an exercise considering and implementing these and/or other ideas.

This is training for tonight, this is KD5BJ back to net.

Tahc.texas.gov

<https://www.rma.usda.gov/Federal-Crop-Insurance-Corporation>

<https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/disaster-assistance-program/noninsured-crop-disaster-assistance/index>

<https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/disaster-assistance-program/livestock-indemnity/index>

<https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/disaster-assistance-program/emergency-assist-for-livestock-honey-bees-fish/index>

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs-initiatives/eqip-environmental-quality-incentives>

<https://www.fsis.usda.gov/food-safety/safe-food-handling-and-preparation/emergencies/consumers-guide-food-safety-severe>

<https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/emergency-management/protecting-livestock>

<https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalwelfare/emergency-programs/ct ep information>

OH8STN Videos

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=avGBTzWAqbo>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AAQfS-tEUQA>