



The Salvation Army

Emergency Disaster Services

Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network



22 March 2018

The Salvation Army Serving At Jacksonville State University After Tornado Strike

Miami-Dade Salvation Army EDS Team Released From Bridge Collapse Site



Jacksonville, AL (03/20/2018) – A line of severe storms moved across northern Mississippi and Alabama dropping large hail and spinning up several tornadoes Monday evening (19 March). The most extensive damage was in Calhoun County, Alabama, where Jacksonville State University received a direct hit.

Miami, FL (03/20/2018) - The Salvation Army local disaster teams of Miami-Dade and Broward counties arrived at the Florida International University bridge collapse within hours and worked around the clock for three days supporting emergency responders. After serving more than 2,800 meals and snacks both teams were released and have returned home to prepare for response to local severe weather across Florida.

The Anniston Corps of The Salvation Army has been called to feed lunch and dinner Tuesday for 300 first responders at the Jacksonville Public Safety Complex. The Corps will also provide service delivery to volunteers responding to the area, as requested. The Anniston Corps mobile feeding unit will be supported by 3 additional mobile feeding units from Birmingham and Gadsden. Other resources throughout Alabama are on standby to provide support as needed.

Led by Raymond Boyd, the Miami-Dade EDS team led the effort coordinating volunteers and emotional and spiritual care workers. Boyd’s recent role serving at the Hurricane Maria reception center helped prepare the team for quick response.

“There are several buildings with roofs ripped right off,” said Major Eric Roberts, Anniston Corps Officer. “It breaks your heart knowing what these folks are going through, but we are here to offer a little bit up hope and a hot meal.”

“We knew right away that this was going to be an extended operation for our responders and we began contacting our local partners to help support our responders” said Boyd. “There was no doubt that the businesses wanted to show their support, so we began contacting those we have relationships with and, man, did they step up.”

Major Roberts and Salvation Army staff are also trained to offer emotional and spiritual care to residents who may have lost their homes and simply need to pray with or talk to someone. “We want them to know they are not alone in this. They can always come to us for help.” said Major Roberts.

While the first hot meals were prepared and served off the mobile feeding canteens, local businesses contributed by providing sandwiches, hamburgers, chips and water. The mobile “kitchen on wheels” known as a disaster canteen were located less than a block away from the collapse. Water, coffee, hot chocolate and hundreds of snacks were served around the clock to grateful Miami-Dade police, fire and transportation workers.

“We are communicating with local and state emergency management officials to determine if there are additional needs in the state.” said Terry Lighthouse, Emergency Disaster Services Director for The Salvation Army of Alabama, Louisiana, and Mississippi. “We will provide service wherever it is needed.”

Today, Captain Enrique Azuaje, Area Commander for Miami-Dade county Salvation Army gathered local team members in preparation for the potential for severe weather. “The Salvation Army cannot provide response like this without help from the community.” Said Captain Azuaje.

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Salvation Army Walkie-Talkie Ministry On-The-Air In The Marshall Islands

Marshall Islands (03/12/2018) – Each day, in the middle of the Pacific Ocean, God’s Word is broadcast in a unique way—by walkie-talkie. This service is an outreach of The Salvation Army Imiej Corps and its Ministry Leaders Raston and Jewel Lanwe.

Just getting to Imiej requires some doing: first traveling to the Republic of the Marshall Islands (2,392 miles from Hawaii or 3,364 miles from Australia) then chartering a boat to the island of Imiej in the Jaluit Atoll. The remote island in The Salvation Army Hawaiian and Pacific Islands Division has a population that fluctuates between 60 and 80 residents



The Lanawes family and the Imiej Corps building.

“It is a difficult place to live and serve, but that doesn’t stop these pastors,” said Major Stephen Ball, Marshall Islands Coordinator for the Hawaiian and Pacific Islands Division.

Recently, the Lanwes bought two hand-held radios. “[Walkie-talkies] are very popular on our atoll since there is very little phone service available,” Jewel Lanwe said. “At first we used them to keep in touch with each other, find out how people were doing and to share stories.”

Then the Lanwes starting praying on the walkie-talkie daily at 7:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. “After a while, everyone on Imiej wanted to join our prayer meeting, so they all went to Jabor [a nearby larger town] and bought their own walkie-talkies,” Lanwe said.

Ball acknowledged the Lanwes’ ministry. “Through this new outreach effort they are able to bring the Word of God to people they cannot easily reach on neighboring islands. God is blessing the work of sharing God’s love through this radio Bible study that they lead each day.”

National Hurricane Conference To Include A Nearly Full Day Amateur Radio Session



Orlando, FL (03/21/2018) - The annual National Hurricane Conference set for 26-29 March 2018, in Orlando, FL, will host a nearly day-long series of Amateur Radio presentations. The Amateur Radio sessions will take place on Tuesday, 27 March from 10:30 AM to 5:00 PM. Presenters will address various aspects of the Amateur Radio response to Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria and other hurricane operations topics. Presentations will cover the operations of several groups during the 2017 hurricane season, including the ARRL, the National Hurricane Center Amateur Radio station (WX4NHC); the Hurricane Watch Net (HWN); the VoIP Hurricane Net (VoIPWX.net); the Canadian Hurricane Centre; the Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network (SATERN), and best practices in SKYWARN activations.

A National Hurricane Center (NHC) representative will discuss the importance of Amateur Radio surface reports to the hurricane forecasting process.

National SATERN Liaison Bill Feist (WB8BZH) will discuss the 31 days of activation for various SATERN Nets during the 2017 Atlantic Hurricane Season, including its support of the ARRL deployment to Puerto Rico in support of the American Red Cross.

ARRL Emergency Preparedness Manager Mike Corey, K1IU, will discuss ARRL’s unprecedented mission to Puerto Rico to support the American Red Cross in the wake of Hurricane Maria, considered to be the worst natural disaster of all time for Dominica and Puerto Rico.

The conference expects some 1,500 attendees this year. The theme is “Improving Hurricane Preparedness.”

The Amateur Radio session on Tuesday is usually open to hams, free of charge. It is possible that some or all of the sessions will be streamed live on <http://www.nsradio.org/stream> as they have in the past.

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Radio Amateurs Help As Nor'easters Repeatedly Slam the Northeastern USA

Boston, MA (03/20/2018) – Amateur Radio volunteers with WX1BOX at the National Weather Service in Taunton, MA, and various ARES groups were very busy in March responding to several nor'easters and severe weather with a lot of snow in the northeastern U.S. “This has been a very active period of significant severe weather for the region after a relatively quiet stretch from late January through the end of February,” observed Rob Macedo (KD1CY), the Eastern Massachusetts Assistant Section Emergency Coordinator for SKYWARN.



Rob Macedo (KD1CY) at the National Weather Service in Taunton, MA.

The first nor'easter on 02-03 March brought mostly heavy rain and wet snow to parts of Massachusetts, Connecticut, eastern New York, and northern New England. Strong to damaging winds swept central and southern New England, with hurricane-force gusts across southeastern New England and Cape Cod and the Islands. The storm caused severe coastal flooding across multiple high-tide cycles.

WX1BOX volunteers were active for 17 hours straight, and afterward, some continued to monitor high tides and strong winds into the weekend. Operators handled more than 1,000 reports of wind damage, wind gusts measured 40 MPH or higher, localized road flooding from heavy rainfall, and coastal flooding. At the height of the storm, nearly a half million customers in Massachusetts lost electrical power. Amateur Radio nets were active on repeaters, and on the New England reflector on EchoLink® conference node 9123/*NEW-ENG3*/IRLP 9123 system.

“Some of the highest astronomical tides of the year coupled with wind gusts of more than 70 MPH — and as high as 93 MPH at the Barnstable County, Massachusetts, emergency operations center (EOC) — to trigger some of the worst coastal flooding in decades,” Macedo recounted.

Eastern Massachusetts ARES was on stand-by, and Cape Cod ARES was active for several days with a regional sheltering operation until power was largely restored to Cape Cod. Marc Stern (WA1R) guarded the HF net on 75 meters and WC1MAB at the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency Region 2 Headquarters was activated by Mike “Sparky” Leger (N1YLQ).

A few days later, a second nor'easter brought heavier snowfall to southern New England with less severe winds and coastal flooding. WX1BOX activated for another 14 hours of SKYWARN operations. Amateur Radio nets in Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Rhode Island fielded reports of heavy snowfall, including “thunder snow,” wet snow damage, strong gusty winds, heavy rainfall, and minor coastal flooding. Up to 16 inches of snow fell in interior southern New England and up to 30 inches of snow in western Massachusetts and parts of New Hampshire, Vermont, and Maine.

Macedo said it became clear from SKYWARN reports that the region would experience extended power outages. Nearly a half-million customers were without power in Massachusetts and Connecticut. These reports were noted by state emergency management and the media which used the information to inform the public about storm risks and to prepare and act accordingly,” Macedo said. SKYWARN nets were also active in the Greater New York City area, reporting damage from wet snow, strong winds, thunder snow, and snowfall totals.

The third storm was a major nor'easter and blizzard that affected the entire New England region with heavy snowfall with up to 2 feet or more in more northern areas. Wind gusts greater than 70 MPH across Cape Cod and the Islands, combined with the weight of wet snow, took down trees and utility lines. There was also minor coastal flooding at high tide.

Eastern Massachusetts ARES went on standby after blizzard warnings were posted. SKYWARN nets were active throughout the region, gathering snowfall and wind reports from around southern New England. WX1BOX volunteers were on duty for 16 hours, bringing the monthly total to 47.

Wind gusts well into the hurricane range were recorded on Cape Cod, along with significant damage from the wet snow. Seven Cape Cod ARES volunteers provided communication at shelters, as cell phone service was disrupted during the blizzard. Cape Cod ARES District Emergency Coordinator Frank O’Laughlin (WQ1O) said the volunteers “seamlessly” transitioned from providing situational awareness to addressing communication failures. Six ham volunteers supported the regional shelter operation, and two of them put in more than 50 straight hours.

The storm-weary northeast is now monitoring another potential coastal storm or nor'easter that could hit at mid-week.

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