



The Salvation Army

Emergency Disaster Services

Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network



14 September 2017



Southern Territory SATERN Net Activates For Hurricane Maria

NHQ (09/18/2017) – For the third time in less than three weeks, SATERN activated the International SATERN SSB Net for a major landfalling hurricane. On Monday 18 September, the Net activated for Hurricane Maria and will remain at a Delta II status until Friday, 22 September 2017.

The International SATERN SSB Net was activated as Hurricane Maria approached many of the same Caribbean islands that had been devastated the week before by Hurricane Irma and, to some extent, by Hurricane Harvey the week before that. Although Hurricane Maria was only a category 1 storm the day before the Net was activated, it rapidly intensified to a category 3 by the time of activation, becoming a monster category 5 hurricane by the end of that day.

During the activation, National SATERN Liaison Bill Feist (WB8BZH) provided information given to him by the Hurricane Watch Net and VoIP Weather Net to both Eastern Territory Headquarters and National Headquarters (NHQ). The Eastern Territory is responsible for operations in the U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico. The Salvation Army World Services Organization (SAWSO) is headquartered at NHQ which also represents The Salvation Army at the FEMA National Response Coordination Center (NRCC).

As is known now, Hurricane Maria had a devastating impact on numerous Caribbean nation islands such as Dominica as well as the U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico. Both Dominica and Puerto Rico lost all electrical power and communications capabilities as Maria rampaged through them.

On Tuesday, 19 September, Eastern Territory Disaster Coordinator Mike Orfitelli, who had helped facilitate the development of SATERN's Strategic Plan just a year earlier, asked SATERN about what services it would be able to provide in Puerto Rico (PR) and the U.S. Virgin Islands (USVI). Feist provided a list of SATERN volunteers in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Eastern Territory SATERN Coordinator Maj. Tom Dingman (K2QMU) then began contacting those operators. Feist also gathered information from SATERN's partners such as the ARRL, MARS and others about what resources they had on the islands that could be of assistance to The Salvation Army, especially post-landfall.

On Wednesday, 20 September, both the International SATERN Net and the Hurricane Watch Net began to receive damage and situation reports from the U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico.

Although the U.S. Virgin Islands were heavily damaged, it was apparent that they had some limited communications capabilities and other resources. All of the Puerto Rican operators, however, reported that there was an island-wide power and communications blackout. It was reported that amateur radio seemed to be the only communications that were operational and that was somewhat limited.



National SATERN Liaison Bill Feist (WB8BZH) operating WB5ALM

The SATERN Net also began to handle numerous outbound Health & Welfare messages with the help of many operators who came on frequency to assist. Peter Rimmel (N8PR) came on frequency looking for KV4FZ on St. Croix (USVI) and then stayed on frequency much of Wednesday to help with relays into Puerto Rico and other areas. Rimmel later reported on the International SATERN Net that amateur radio operators on Dominica had set up an email station to handle Health & Welfare messages as soon as they could set it up. Email can be sent to: WelfareDominica@cewn.org.

All of this information was forwarded throughout the day to both the Eastern Territory and National Headquarters (NHQ). NHQ, in turn, forwarded this information to the NRCC which, according to National Disaster Services Specialist Flo Knox (KB3YAT), recognized the contributions of The Salvation Army and SATERN in its Situation Reports.

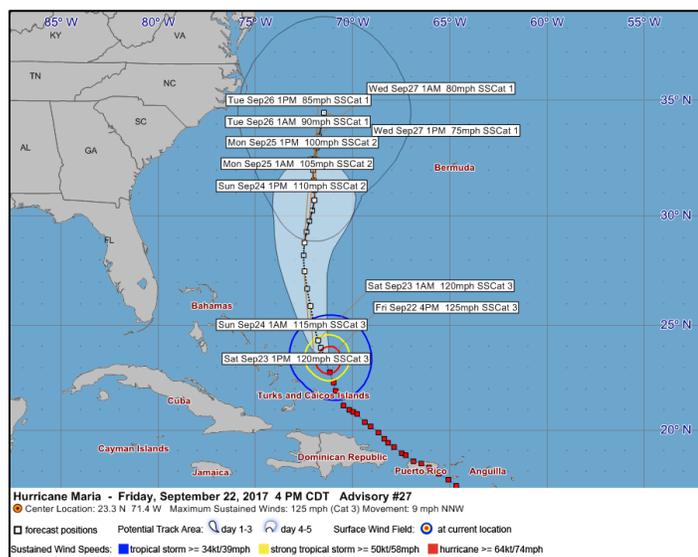
THANK YOU!!

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At the end of Wednesday, Angel Vazquez (WP3R) in, Arecibo Puerto Rico, asked International SATERN SSB Net Manager Ken Gilliland (AG6SV) to make a Health & Welfare call to Jim Breakall (WA3FET) to set up a schedule. The call was completed and Breakall later reported he and Vazquez had made contact on 14.260. He also reported that Vazquez is the current Director of Telescope Operations, RFI & Spectrum Manager, and IT Support Manager of the Arecibo Observatory.

Gilliland also facilitated a “family reunion” on the air between family members in the U.S. and Puerto Rico that night. Robert S Sambolin (WP4WS) in Puerto Rico asked Gilliland to call Sambolin’s son, Robert M Sambolin (KP4CI) to report that the family in PR were fine but that there was no power, telephone or internet services. Sambolin, Sr., then asked Gilliland to call Ed Rios (KP4AKB). Shortly afterwards, Sambolin and Rios connected by radio on the SATERN Net and moved off frequency to reconnect. When Gilliland checked on them later, they expressed their deep appreciation for SATERN’s help and agreed to help SATERN in the future as bilingual operators.

On Thursday (21 September), the SATERN Net was busy all day facilitating the management of outbound Health & Welfare messages, primarily from Puerto Rico.



At this time, the SATERN Net is developing a Net Control roster for continued operations through Monday. A decision will be made each day about the next day’s activation based on the activity of the previous day. Net Control and Assistant Net Control / Net Relay operators – especially bilingual operators - are needed. Experienced Net Control Operators interested in helping should contact Gilliland at AG6SV@ATT.net and Assistant Net Manager Bob Rogers (WA5EEZ) at BobRgrs@hotmail.com.

Caribbean Emergency Weather Net Handling Large Volume of Traffic

CEWN (09/22/2017) - The Caribbean Emergency Weather Network (CEWN) on 7.188 and 3.815 MHz is actively handling emergency and priority traffic in the wake of Hurricane Maria — especially for Dominica and Puerto Rico. A YouTube live stream is available, compliments of ARRL Santa Barbara Section Technical Advisor Ben Kuo, AI6YR — who has no official connection with CEWN. Kuo said the net is handling “real life-and-death traffic in Dominica,” including a situation involving someone with a broken leg and trapped in a house.

“Truly I think that the regional agencies were not ready for a calamity of this magnitude,” said Kumar Persaud, J85K, one of the CEWN net controllers. “The CEWN operators have ended up filling the communications gap for the agencies, without any prior briefing.”

The net is dealing with a tremendous volume of traffic for Dominica and Puerto Rico, he told ARRL, with a handful of stations handling emergency and priority communications for a million or more people. The CEWN said that at this time, its operators are unable to deal with health-and-welfare traffic. The CEWN is handling **health-and-welfare inquiries** via e-mail. Requesters should indicate their name and location and the name and location of the person(s) they’re trying to locate, plus an e-mail address or telephone number for a response.

Dominica suffered a direct hit by Hurricane Maria on September 18-19, resulting in a loss of all power and a total blackout of communication to the outside world, except for Amateur Radio. Kuo said stations in Puerto Rico also report having no power, telephone service, or water and “everything devastated.”

Kuo cited hams on St. Lucia and Dominica, and others outside the region, for coordinating and collecting inbound health-and-welfare traffic as well as coordinating the landing of the emergency relief vessels from Barbuda and advising rescue groups on logistics. The net also has been the only communication path for government communication. “For the public, the only link to information on their families in Dominica was a Facebook broadcast of an *EchoLink* node to the island by Brian Machesny, K1LI/J75Y,” Kuo said. “That node — on St. Lucia — allowed hams to monitor traffic in Dominica on the local J73MAN repeater.” Because of poor HF band conditions, no propagation was available to the US, but the J69DS remote station provided direct access from St. Lucia to nets on 80 and 40 meters, he said.

The J69DS **RemoteHams** server is listening to the CEWN on HF, and *EchoLink*. (J62DX node) is on the UHF repeater in Dominica. Do *not* transmit unless you have valid traffic.

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The Salvation Army Responds To Mexico Earthquake

Mexico City (09/20/2017) - The 7.1-magnitude earthquake of Sept. 19 caused the collapse of buildings and other infrastructure in and around Mexico City. The epicenter was on the border between the states of Puebla and Morelos, around 75 miles from the Mexican capital. Colonel Ricardo Bouzigues, Territorial Commander for The Salvation Army in Mexico, reports “tremendous damage,” and more than 200 people are known to have lost their lives, including at least 26 children who died when their school collapsed.



Salvation Army facilities were affected, and all territorial headquarters officers and cadets of the School for Officer Training were evacuated because of structural damage to buildings. Nevertheless, The Salvation Army is assisting communities most severely affected by the disaster and a needs assessment is underway.

The Salvation Army Irma Arellano Children’s Home in Mexico City was largely undamaged by the earthquake and has become a hub for The Salvation Army’s response. Officers, staff and volunteers have all been involved in the immediate response, with some of the resident children participating in preparing sandwiches and other food packages for first responders, rescue teams and people who had to leave their homes.

Headquarters and some corps buildings across the Mexico City metro area are being used as collection centers to receive donations such as food, water and blankets for subsequent distribution.

Photos and video of the immediate reaction to the earthquake are available at sar.my/mexcityquake.

This latest emergency response comes while three teams of Salvation Army officers and volunteers continue emergency disaster relief after the Sept. 7 earthquake in Oaxaca and following the landfall of Hurricane Katia in Veracruz. This means that additional Salvation Army canteens, supplies and personnel are being sought from the U.S. The Salvation Army International Emergency Services team—based at International Headquarters in London—is also poised for immediate deployment.

In Oaxaca, The Salvation Army’s emergency response is centered on the city of Juchitán, on the Chiapas coast and 62 miles from the epicenter of the earlier 8.1-magnitude quake. Two emergency canteens were mobilized to serve approximately 5,000 people. The majority of these people became instantly homeless when their houses collapsed.

The Salvation Army continues to support affected individuals and families, in cooperation with the government and partner agencies.

Meanwhile, in Veracruz a mobile canteen and two vans stocked with food, groceries and clothing were deployed in response to Hurricane Katia. Around 2,000 people are currently being supported with emergency feeding programs, and emotional and spiritual counseling.

Colombian Radio Amateurs Asked to Assist in Reconnecting Family Members in Caribbean

LCRA (09/22/2017) - The Colombia Amateur Radio League (**LCRA**) is asking the Amateur Radio community there to activate the national emergency network to support those seeking information about relatives in the Caribbean islands affected by the recent hurricanes.

To start, the frequencies 7.117 MHz for SSB and 7.085 MHz for digital modes as well as *EchoLink* COL_LCRA conference and the national VHF repeater system have been designated to coordinate the restoration of family contacts. Currently, the Amateur Radio League of Cali’s HK5VD is in operation for this purpose under the guidance of Juan Manuel Yanguas, HK5AKN, the Emergency Coordinator of LCRA, an International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) member society.

Contact the Colombian Amateur Radio League (HK3LR) for more information.

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