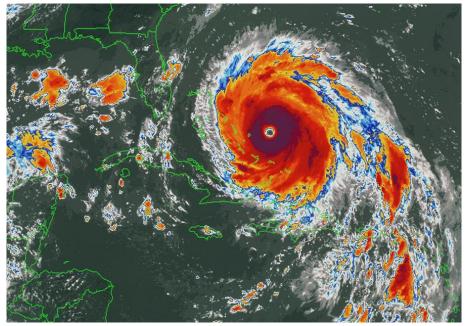


Eastern Healthcare Preparedness Coalition



2025 Hurricane Communication and Information Sharing Exercise (COMMEX) 008

Exercise Plan



Event Date: June 17th 2025

Major Hurricane Impact for North Carolina

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HANDLING INSTRUCTIONS

- 1. The information gathered in this SITMAN should be shared as you see fit. This document should be used as a guide for exercise. Reproduction of this document, in whole or in part, is allowed, however please keep within your agency.
- 2. For more information, please consult the following points of contact (POCs):

Exercise Director

Name Matt McMahon

Title Disaster / Communication Specialist

Agency Eastern Healthcare Preparedness Coalition

Street Address 224 Industrial Blvd City, State ZIP Greenville, NC 27834

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E-mail <u>matthew.mcmahon@ecuhealth.org</u>

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Title Eastern NC AUXCOMM Coordinator

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E-mail <u>inglec16@gmail.com</u>

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Exercise Website Information

MAIN EXERCISE APP/WEBPAGE LINK



INTRODUCTION

Purpose

The exercise is designed to give public safety, healthcare and auxiliary communication groups an opportunity to work from their home base/agency or field mobilize resources in preparation of a major hurricane impact. Players will be exposed to current communication challenges, plans, and capabilities for, not only a local response, but a response to a large-scale critical incident in North Carolina. This exercise is not meant to evaluate any one particular agency or group. Instead, it is designed to show functional strengths and gaps to assist with preparedness for the 2025 Hurricane season.

Exercise Goal and Objectives

This exercise is designed to achieve the following goal(s):

 Exercise the communications policies, procedures, plans, available assets, and capabilities used by local, regional and state agencies in response to a land falling hurricane in North Carolina.

The Exercise will focus on the following objectives:

- Engaging stakeholders on interoperable communication system(s), to leverage the use
 of the interoperable channels and talk groups available.
- Identify redundant interoperable communication capabilities in the event of major disruptions to the primary communication system(s).
- Encourage agencies to develop, test and evaluate their PACE plans for voice and data.
- Demonstrate the ability of participating public safety and AUXC personnel to rapidly and effectively establish interoperable communications prior to, and following a hurricane impact.
- Identify, test and evaluate backup satellite telephone communications
- Identify and demonstrate the use of the communications plan(s) and associated capabilities that will be used in response to major disaster and preplanned events.
- Enhance the overall readiness of the region and state in preparation for the 2024 Hurricane season.
- Exercise ESAR-VHP (EHPC requirement)
- Evaluate the status of the VIPER SIEC Template update with agencies across the state.

Focus on areas for improvement from Hurricane Helene

The Exercise will be divided into a few different lanes of participation. Each discipline lane has specific tasks that are geared towards the operational environment and challenges faced by Players. Unlike most exercises, this COMMEX is a hybrid of a few different types of exercises. Players can participate from their home base, agency or EOC and will be self-guided through a list of tasks to complete. Some players will have the opportunity to field mobilize to a predetermined target to conduct realistic downrange operations. Most of the tasks have a measurable outcome that require interacting with the assigned Exercise Control. Facilitators will be available to aide Players, but in a remote fashion. Some virtual/downrange players and teams may have modified MSEL blocks based on tasks desired. If you fall into this category, you will be notified of the modification well ahead of the exercise. We have some groups running their own internal COMMEX within this exercise.

Exercise Structure

This exercise will rely on the ability of Players to work through the assigned tasks and communicate/coordinate their efforts using available resources. Following completion of the exercise, all Players will be encouraged to provide input during a debrief ("hotwash") via a survey.

This Exercise is designed to help Players focus on interoperable communication capabilities and issues by providing the opportunity to engage resources in a controlled, learning environment. The intent of this Exercise is to provide an engine to expose players to real life communication challenges.

Participants

The exercise has registered participants from the following agencies:

<u>List might not reflect recent registrations</u>. If you find your agency missing below, please let us know so we can reflect it in the AAR.

NORTH CAROLINA AGENCIES

Local – Regional:

LIST WILL BE COMPILED POST EX	

<u>Hospi</u>	tals:					
LIST WILL BE COMPILED POST EX						
State Ag	encies:					
LIST WILL BE COMPILED POST EX						
<u>Federal A</u>	gencies:					
LIST WILL BE COMPILED POST EX						
NGOs (Non-Governmental Organizations):						
LIST WILL BE COMPILED POST EX						
-						
Auxiliary Communications / SHARES:						
List will be provided in Appendix						

Roles and Responsibilities

Players

Players respond to the situation presented based on current knowledge of response procedures, plans, cross-jurisdictional agreements, and communications capabilities. Players wishing to mobilize to a known target in their jurisdiction are asked to precoordinate that with the exercise director to ensure a safe exercise environment. Players remotely mobilized downrange will follow the same pathway as remote players. Remote virtual players will operate from their home base during the allotted remote testing timeframe. All Players are encouraged to participate fully and to think through the potential ramifications of the scenario to their agency.

Observers

Observers do not participate in exercise play during the moderated discussion period. Throughout this time, Observers should instead take written notes of the jurisdictional, training, and technological interoperability gaps noted during exercise play. There are no formal observers scheduled with the Exercise Planning Team as of this writing.

Remote Facilitators

Remote Facilitators provides situation updates and keeps the exercise moving. The Remote Facilitator also keeps exercise play focused, provides additional information as needed, and ensures questions are resolved as they develop.

Exercise Control

Exercise Control will provide overall exercise direction and address challenges as they arise. Again, this exercise is a hybrid from normal industry standards. Multiple Exercise Control points will be utilized for this exercise. All exercise control points will be coordinated through direct conference bridges by audio/video and radio.

COMU Position Task Books (PTBs)

Due to the complexity of this exercise, position task books will only be signed for inperson players that have their own SIEC credentialed evaluator. Virtual players have the ability for PTB credit if the task is evaluated by an SIEC credentialing manual approved evaluator. EHPC Exercise Staff will not be signing off PTB tasks or designating who/what evaluators meet the credentialing manual requirement. Please refer to the NC COMU Credentialing Manual for further information. As a reminder, the main goal of this exercise is to ensure Hurricane season preparedness for North Carolina.

Participants are not authorized to deploy for this exercise unless you received specific instructions to do so. Any personnel working MCVs away from their Home Base must coordinate this by June 10th 2025 by 17:00est with the Exercise Director.

Assumptions and Artificialities

Several assumptions and artificialities are necessary to complete the exercise in the time available. During this exercise, the following apply:

- The tasks, and the order that they are presented, are plausible.
- There are no trick questions or hidden agendas.
- Some necessary artificiality exists in order to approximate communications within the confines of the exercise environment.
- Treat the tasks as if it were occurring in the real world. Specifically, players need to describe their actions using currently existing communications assets, jurisdictional agreements, and procedures.

Exercise Rules

There is no single accepted solution.

This is an open, safe, stress-free environment.

- Varying viewpoints, even respectful disagreements, are expected and encouraged.
- Respond based on your knowledge of current communication capabilities, plans, and inplace assets. Do not assume future capabilities or "wish lists."
- Players should make the best decision based on the circumstances presented in the exercise play.
- If a communications resource is needed, but would not be a real world capability, note the gap.
- Avoid using workarounds if they would not be part of your established communications system.
- Decisions are not precedent setting and may not necessarily reflect your organization's final position on a given issue. Treat this as an opportunity to discuss and present multiple options and possible solutions.

Process

All personnel will be required to attend the initial exercise virtual briefing (Link will be sent out the morning of the exercise). This briefing will be pre-recorded and available on the EHPC website and mobile smartphone app. The briefing will provide the needed exercise information and safety information. All personnel will be required to listen to the entire briefing and report the information letter designator in required documentation. Example- at some point during the briefing a phonetic letter will be provided such as "Information HOTEL". One requirement will be to provide the briefing letter on the MSEL to ensure you listened to the briefing information.

Step 1: Watch Briefing in its entirety:

https://easternhealthcareprepare.subspla.sh/gd774m7

<u>Step 2:</u> Begin MSEL (Task List) with first task link based on your discipline lane. (If you become separated from the forms, there is a master link document that can be found on the Exercise Webpage). You can simply click on the link of the task you were on and continue.

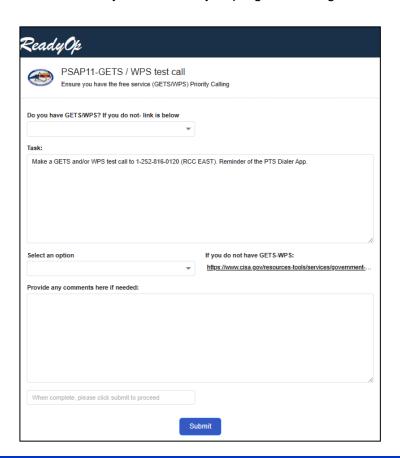
Exercise webpage:

https://easternhealthcareprepare.subspla.sh/vgy58t5

Helpful hints to make your efforts easier

- Refer to the exercise webpage for any additional information needed
- Ensure you watch the whole briefing
- Document your ICS214 as you normally would during an operational period and be ready to submit at the conclusion of the exercise. This is required for full credit.

Below: This is an example of ReadyOp Task (Form). Simply answer the questions or task at hand then click submit at the bottom of the page. You will automatically be directed to the next task. Do not close your browser. If you are separated from this automated process, you can use the MASTER LINK document on the webpage to directly proceed from where you left off. Try to keep a mental note of what task you are on as you progress through the exercise.



This exercise is designed to be aided by the use of a computer. In the event you lose that ability or are unable to progress, there is a PDF you can print out that has all the tasks in sequential order. It will be somewhat limited due to missing the interactive portions. These PDFs can be found in the Exercise Documents section of the COMMEX webpage, separated by lanes.

Initial Briefing Information

Initial Briefing link will be sent out via email the morning of the exercise before 08:30EST. In the event a player does not receive the Initial Briefing, check the spam and junk folder in your email. Another option is you can download the Briefing directly from the webpage link after 08:30est on June 17th 2025. https://easternhealthcareprepare.subspla.sh/vqy58t5

Hotwash information

Following the completion of the exercise, all participants will need to complete the last task that includes a hotwash and feedback form on the exercise.

Exercise Control Contact Information based on participation type

The following facilitator/Evaluators contact info is below. Feel free to reach out for issues.

PUBLIC SAFETY, PSAP, USCG, HOSPITALS, ITSL, OTHER-SPECIALITY LANES						
Facilitator	Matt McMahon					
Phone number	252-214-5968					
Radio Talkgroup	VIPER - State Event HOTEL 4 (Callsign RCCEast)					
Email	commexpublicsafety@gmail.com					

AMATEUR RADIO / AUXCOMM / SHARES LANE							
Facilitator Charlie Ingle							
Phone number	252-524-2056						
Radio Talkgroup	VIPER – DPREAST TG15 (Callsign RCCEast)						
Operations Email (AUXC)	commexauxcomm@gmail.com						

Please consult the MSEL for specific contact points based on your lane of participation

General email for questions/concerns during the exercise: commexpublicsafety@gmail.com

Schedule

Times will be adjusted as needed.

June 17th 2025

0900-0920 Initial Exercise Briefing STARTEX when complete
 12:00-12:30 Working lunch (Independent / on own)
 12:30-15:00 Exercise play continues
 15:00-15:30 Paperwork submission/Complete survey
 ENDEX

Appendix A Exercise Planning Team

EPT Member	Agency	Lane(s)
Charlie Ingle	NC AUXCOMM	AUXCOMM/SHARES
Nathan Jackson	Guilford Metro 911	PSAPs
Todd Ausbon	Pitt County 911	PSAPs
Dale Sutphin	NCOEMS	All
Charlie Ingle	NC AUXCOMM	AUXCOMM/SHARES
Dale Sutphin	NCOEMS	All
Ira Whitford	Craven County EM	All
Lor Kutchins	NC AUXCOMM/ EHPC	AUXCOMM/SHARES
EHPC STAFF	EHPC	All
Danny	Carolina East Medical Center	Healthcare

Appendix B Useful quick reference items

DPR Crosswalk Chart

The following chart shows the relationship between the original 9 zone layout with the new 3 zone layout with the new talkgroup name compared to the old name. This chart will come in handy for the use of these talkgroups during the transitional period when responders might need to communicate with others who have not updated the programming of their radios.

NEW NAME	OLD NAME	Alt OLD NAME	NEW NAME	OLD NAME	Alt OLD NAME	NEW NAME	OLD NAME	Alt OLD NAME
DPREAST1	DPR1TG1	DPR 1-1	DPRCENT1	DPR4TG1	DPR 4-1	DPRWEST1	DPR7TG1	DPR 7-1
DPREAST2	DPR1TG2	DPR 1-2	DPRCENT2	DPR4TG2	DPR 4-2	DPRWEST2	DPR7TG2	DPR 7-2
DPREAST3	DPR1TG3	DPR 1-3	DPRCENT3	DPR4TG3	DPR 4-3	DPRWEST3	DPR7TG3	DPR 7-3
DPREAST4	DPR1TG4	DPR 1-4	DPRCENT4	DPR4TG4	DPR 4-4	DPRWEST4	DPR7TG4	DPR 7-4
DPREAST5	DPR1TG5	DPR 1-5	DPRCENT5	DPR4TG5	DPR 4-5	DPRWEST5	DPR7TG5	DPR 7-5
DPREAST6	DPR2TG1	DPR 2-1	DPRCENT6	DPR5TG1	DPR 5-1	DPRWEST6	DPR8TG1	DPR 8-1
DPREAST7	DPR2TG2	DPR 2-2	DPRCENT7	DPR5TG2	DPR 5-2	DPRWEST7	DPR8TG2	DPR 8-2
DPREAST8	DPR2TG3	DPR 2-3	DPRCENT8	DPR5TG3	DPR 5-3	DPRWEST8	DPR8TG3	DPR 8-3
DPREAST9	DPR2TG4	DPR 2-4	DPRCENT9	DPR5TG4	DPR 5-4	DPRWEST9	DPR8TG4	DPR 8-4
DPREAST10	DPR2TG5	DPR 2-5	DPRCENT10	DPR5TG5	DPR 5-5	DPRWEST10	DPR8TG5	DPR 8-5
DPREAST11	DPR3TG1	DPR 3-1	DPRCENT11	DPR6TG1	DPR 6-1	DPRWEST11	DPR9TG1	DPR 9-1
DPREAST12	DPR3TG2	DPR 3-2	DPRCENT12	DPR6TG2	DPR 6-2	DPRWEST12	DPR9TG2	DPR 9-2
DPREAST13	DPR3TG3	DPR 3-3	DPRCENT13	DPR6TG3	DPR 6-3	DPRWEST13	DPR9TG3	DPR 9-3
DPREAST14	DPR3TG4	DPR 3-4	DPRCENT14	DPR6TG4	DPR 6-4	DPRWEST14	DPR9TG4	DPR 9-4
DPREAST15	DPR3TG5	DPR 3-5	DPRCENT15	DPR6TG5	DPR 6-5	DPRWEST15	DPR9TG5	DPR 9-5

Appendix C Links for more information

EHPC APP- COMMEX 2024 Document Webpage (web view):

https://subsplash.com/easternhealthcareprepare/media/ms/+xkh5nfj

EHPC App Information:

https://subsplash.com/easternhealthcareprepare/app

NIFOG 2.0 (Also an app)

https://www.cisa.gov/sites/default/files/publications/NIFOG%20Ver%202.0 508%20version FINAL 9 2 3 2021 %28signed%29.pdf

AUXFOG (Auxiliary Communications)

https://www.cisa.gov/sites/default/files/publications/AUXFOG%20June%202016%20-%20508%20Reviewed%20-%20Final%20%282-16-17%29 0.pdf

NC WEBEOC

C-11

https://www.ncsparta.gov/eoc7/

North Carolina Multi-Hazard Threat Database

https://www.ncmhtd.com/oems/

DHS-CISA GETS/WPS

1. Incident Name: 2025 Hurricane COMMEX

https://www.cisa.gov/about-pts

DHS-CISA SHARES HF Information:

https://www.cisa.gov/shared-resources-shares-high-frequency-hf-radio-program

2. Date/Time Prepared:

EAST) 252-816-0123 IF NEEDED. AUXCOMM LANE HAS SEPARATE ICS205 FOR THEIR ASSIGNED RESOURCES.

Appendix D Exercise ICS205 (All lanes except AUXC)





STATE MEDICAL ASSISTANCE TEAM 100

INCIDENT RADIO COMMUNICATIONS PLAN (ICS 205)

3. Operational Period:

(All lanes except AUXCOMM)			Date: 6-17-25 Time: 08:00					ate From: 6-17-25 Date To: 6-17-25 ime From: 08:00 Time To: 20:00		
4. Basic Radio Channel Use:										
Zone Grp.	C h #	Function	Channel Name/Trunked Radio System Talkgroup	I I	RX Freq N or W	RX Tone/NAC	TX Freq N or W	TX Tone/NA C	Mode (A, D, or M)	Remarks
		COMMAND	HOTEL 4 / VIPER	RCCE					D	PRIMARY RCCE OPERATIONS
		TACTICAL	LIMA 4 / VIPER	RCCE					D	RCCE OPERATIONS
		TACTICAL	DPREAST15/ VIPER	RCCE					D	RCCE OPERATIONS
		TACTICAL	EHPC DISASTER - VMK79100 / VIPER	HCC					D	EHPC (HCC) HAILING
		AIR TO GROUND	AIR OPS 1 / VIPER	A2G					D	AIR TO AIR AND AIR TO GROUND OPERATIONS
		AIR TO GROUND DIRECT	7AG88D / 8TAC92D / UTAC41D / VTAC11	A2G	Refer to NIFOG for Frequency Information			formation	A/D	AIR TO GROUND BASED ON BAND AVAILABLE
Special Remarks: ALL COMMUNICATIONS SHOULD BEGIN AND END WITH "THIS IS AN EXERCISE". CALLSIGN OF RCCE (REGIONAL COORDINATION CENTER EAST) IS "RCC-EAST". USE YOUR CALLSIGN AS NORMAL. IF UNSURE- USE PLAIN ENGLISH. ANY TYPE OF REAL WORLD EMERGENCY WILL										
SERVER ENGLY OF THE CONTROL OF THE C										

HALT THE EXERCISE. USE "REAL WORLD EMERGENCY" FOLLOWED BY LOCATION, IDENTIFICATION AND PROBLEM. VIPER HOTEL 4 IS CONSIDERED THE MAIN OPERATIONAL TALKGROUP FOR THIS EXERCISE AND OTHERS SECONDARY FOR VARIOUS INJECTS. ASSISTANCE IS AVAILABLE (RCC

Appendix E ICS205 (AUXC Only)





STATE MEDICAL ASSISTANCE TEAM 100

INCIDENT RADIO COMMUNICATIONS PLAN (ICS 205)

 1. Incident Name: 2025 Hurricane COMMEX (AUXCOMM LANE ONLY)
 2. Date/Time Prepared: Date: 6-17-25 Time: 08:00
 3. Operational Period: Date From:6-17-25 Time From: 08:00

3. Operational Period: Date To: 6-17-25 Time From: 08:00

Time From: 08:00

Time From: 08:00

Time To: 20:00

4. Basic Radio Channel Use:

4. Bas	4. Basic Radio Chamiel Use:									
Zone Grp.	C h #	Function	Channel Name/Trunked Radio System Talkgroup	Assignment	RX Freq N or W	RX Tone/NAC	TX Freq N or W	TX Tone/NA C	Mode (A, D, or M)	Remarks
		COMMAND	HF PRIMARY	N4EBO					Α	PRIMARY VOICE HF
		TACTICAL	MULTI - SHARES	NNC4NC	VARIOUS	P3/P4	VARIOUS	P3/P4	D	SHARES HF RMS DATA
		TACTICAL	CLUSTER - EHPC	N4EBO	LINK SYS	VARIOUS	LINK SYS	VARIOUS	D	EHPC CLUSTER DMR
		TACTICAL	DOWN EAST 440	N4EBO	LINK SYS	VARIOUS	LINK SYS	VARIOUS	Α	DOWN EAST UHF LINK

Special Remarks: CALLSIGN TO RCCEAST IS N4EBO. SHARES CALLSIGN IS NNC4NC. SHARES RMS LOCATED AT RCCE AND CAN BE FOUND IN WL2K STATION LIST. HF VOICE CHANNEL USED WILL BE DEPENDENT ON BAND CONDITIONS. ANTICIPATE 40/60/80. EHPC CLUSTER DMR IS LINKED TO NC PRN CHAT 2 FOR DURATION OF EXERCISE, ECHOLINK AND TGIF. ALL RADIO TRAFFIC SHOULD BE PROCEEDED AND ENDED WITH "THIS IS AN EXERCISE".

P: Voice- Phone: 252-520-4923

252-520-4932 Comms room direct

Data- F 252-520-4927

A: Voice-Viper- EBO (for EHPC exercise Delta 2)

Data- Web EOC

Bridge for public safety event channel or overwatch

C: Voice-Sat com- EBO

Shares Voice- NCS 886 SBAO-Day, SAGO-Night (not monitored unless requested/activated for event)

EHPC exercise Shares voice SFAO

Data- Winlink- NCS 886

E: Voice*-UHF- via Down East/Coastal linked system

UHF- EHPC Cluster on EHPC DMR NETWORK UHF- into Columbia repeater KX4NC(443.3000) on

OTH - Into Columbia repeater KA4NC(445.3000)

Demand link to Greenville (147.0900 W4GDF)

HF- TBA or default THEN day 7232 KHz, night 3923KHz CALLSIG: N4EBO

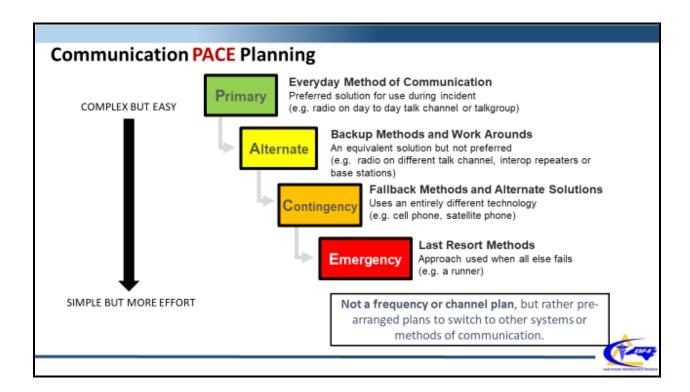
P- Primary

A- Alternate

C- Contingency

E- Emergency

Appendix F PACE Flow Reference







EHPC WEBSITE



EXERCISE INFORMATION PAGE