

2015 Maryland -DC Section  
Simulated Emergency Test



**Maryland - District of Columbia**

ARES® Simulated Emergency Test (SET)  
Exercise Plan

October 3, 2015



Jim Montgomery  
WB3KAS  
ARRL Section Emergency Coordinator  
Maryland - DC Section  
[wb3kas@arrl.org](mailto:wb3kas@arrl.org)

<<< July 31, 2015 (10:59pm) >>>

## Preface

The Maryland - DC Section SET Sequel continues. The 2013 and 2014 SETs were a continuation of each other. “Hurricane Chessie” graced us in 2013, and the delivery of requested ham gear in 2014 in support of a tornado as part of that hurricane. 2015 SET is the collection of “swollen rivers and streams” data requested by the State of Maryland as the result of the hurricane and tornado’s aftermath.

Maryland - DC Section  
2015 Simulated Emergency Test Exercise Plan

**Date:** Saturday October 3, 2015

**Time:** 0900 to 1500 hrs, local

**Purpose:**

This simulated emergency test exercise plan is based on the premise that periodic emergency drills enhances the ability of emergency communicators to perform in actual emergencies and, as such, improves and promotes problem solving.

**Objectives:**

1. Demonstrate the capability to photograph, track and deliver required water level conditions at various locations in and around the Section.
2. Demonstrate the ability to coordinate and work with adjacent ARES® Groups in accomplishing a required task.
3. Demonstrate the feasibility of marrying APRS and Winlink 2000 to provide a means to an end.

**Participants:**

Any and all ARES/RACES Groups, ACS Groups, MARS and Amateur Radio Clubs most welcome to join in and participate in this statewide exercise. More on this later.

**Scenario:**

Following the destruction in the path of Hurricane Chessie and the isolated tornado near Reistertown, MD, (2013 SET and 2014 SET) statewide rivers and streams have swollen to the point of concern to the Maryland Emergency Management Agency (MEMA). Roads are becoming impassable. Families and communities are slowly being isolated. MEMA has asked the Amateur Radio community to assess and report water levels approaching flood stage at various known locations throughout the state. Specific MEMA information requested are general location, GPS coordinates and a photograph.

**Plan of Action:**

MEMA sends out an email Thursday morning October 1 to the SEC requesting Amateur Radio support. The SEC forwards the message to the District ECs for action. Friday night at 2000L an Echolink conference will be held among the ECs and other interested parties to discuss deployment particulars. Email to follow with an agenda.

At 0800L Saturday morning, the survey teams will deploy a buddy system (two operators per team) to previously researched designated flood prone areas and begin relaying MEMA requested

information back to a centralized-county command post. Survey teams will have an APRS/voice/data operator in the passenger seat. Multiple teams will survey multiple sites during their deployment to canvass a good segment of their county.

### **Deployment Options:**

As stated above, I have specifically invited all non-ARES Groups to join us. If you know of a club(s) in your jurisdictions I strongly encourage you to contact them and have them join you. It could be a good way to introduce EmComm activity to those not having a concept of what we do and the capabilities we offer to served agencies. Accepting deployment assignments can be a frightening experience for anyone new to this aspect of the hobby.

As you may notice from the list of Selected Low Water Level Gauges, some counties have fewer than others, and TALB county does not have any listed on the NOAA weather site.

NOAA Water Level Listings may be found at: <http://water.weather.gov/ahps/>. It takes a while to load all 7223 gauge sites around the Nation. Zoom in to your area of interest to see the list from the table on the map.

If radio organizations on the Eastern shore could team up to cover areas not having any Amateur Radio operators, that would show some real support to the exercise.

### **Communication Consideration:**

In keeping with the 'unofficial communications' mode of operation for the MDC Section, individual counties may elect to choose however they wish to obtain their surveys. The common mode of operations across county lines shall be by way of Winlink 2000. Reports going to the three DEC's shall be any Winlink client on any band (VHF or HF) they wish.

A tabulated spreadsheet will be used to keep track of inbound reports and be sent to MEMA on regular basis perhaps on the half hour depending on how heavy the inbound traffic. MEMA to respond with 'message received' and any clarification that may be asked.

APRS operators will set their systems based on what is decided at the planning meeting. Results will be written up in the minutes of the meeting and posted thereafter.

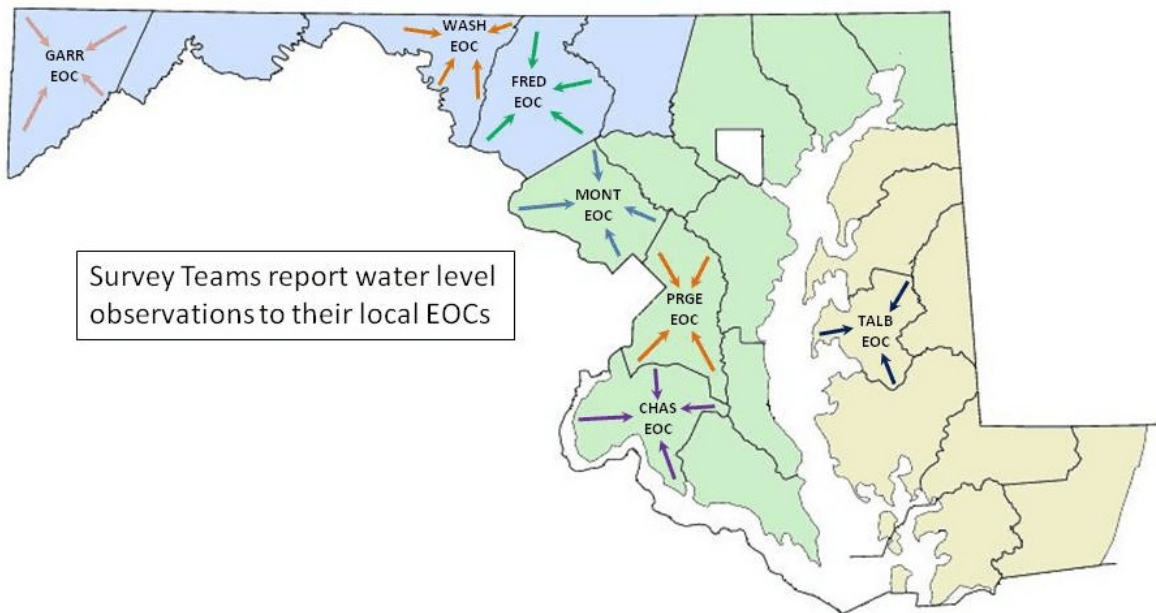
## Tracking the Teams:

Tracking will be accomplished via APRS by local support. Surveyors must have APRS and repeater access capability in order to fulfill the intent of the exercise. Two tracking stations located somewhere in the Section will provide en route update reports to the SEC via Winlink 2000 at the Section Communications Command Center, Mitchellville, MD. Any APRS operators stationed at home to support the effort, please contact me at my email address.

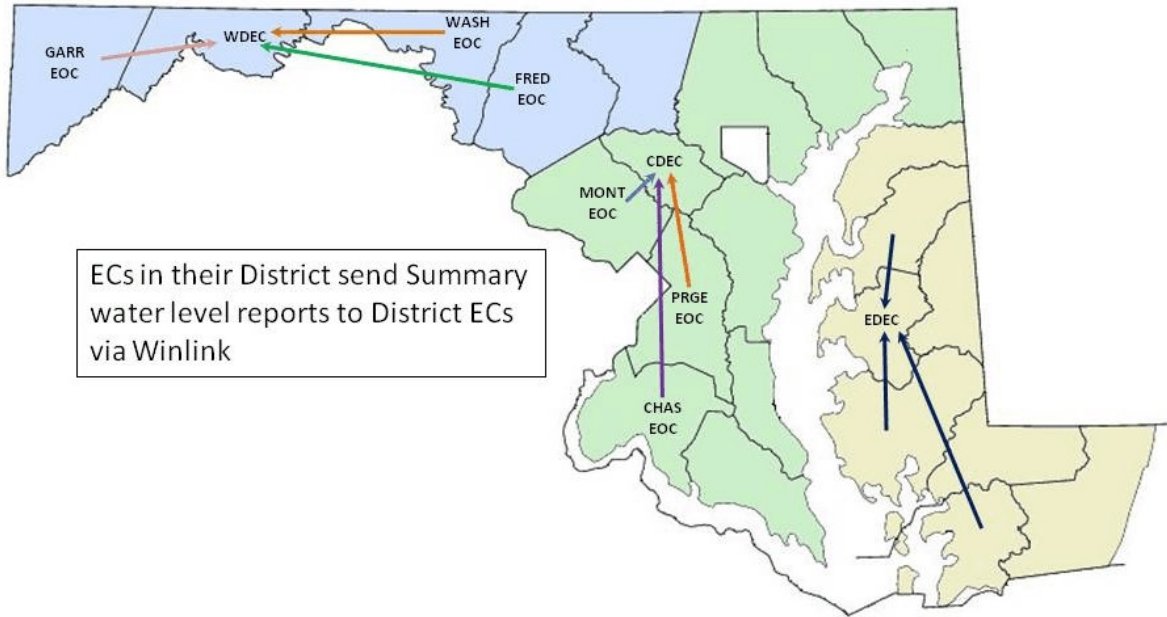
## Survey Information Paths

The roll up of survey results would look like this:

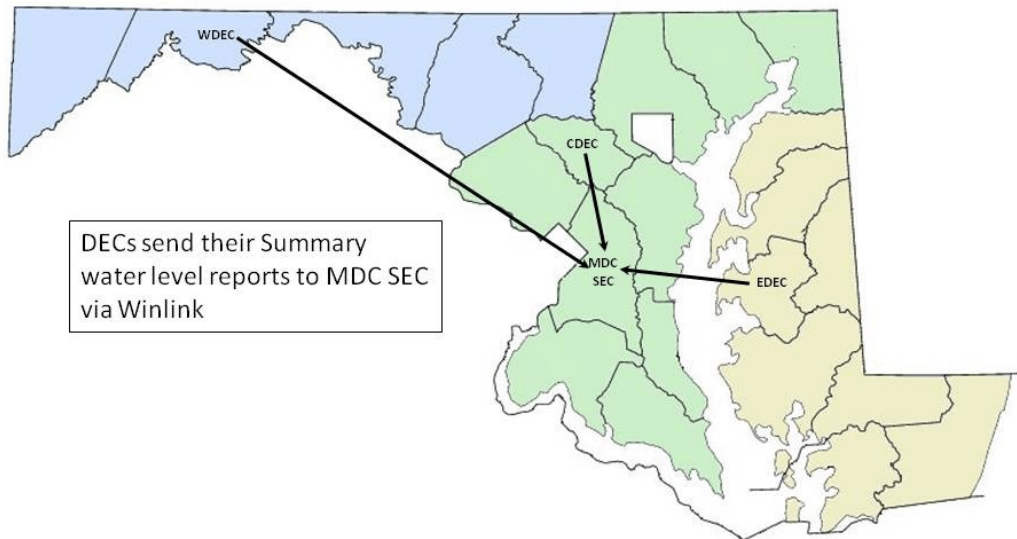
1. County survey teams send reports to central point within the county, eg., EOC. (Figure 1)
2. County ECs send reports to their DECs. (Figure 2)
3. District ECs send their reports to the MDC SEC. (Figure 3)
4. MDC SEC will send updates to MEMA as reports come in throughout the day.



**Figure 1: Survey Team Reports**



**Figure 2: EOC Reports to DEC**



**Figure 3: DEC Reports to MDC SEC**

**Reporting Requirements:**

Submitted reports from EC to DEC to SEC will be in Excel spreadsheet format. An example follows.

Time	District	County	Observer	Location	Lat	Lon	Report	Beam Heading
0934	Central	PRGE	K3ERA	Piscataway Ck	38 42 20	076 57 57	1' below road level	046
1245	Central	PRGE	W3PGC	School House Pond, Upper Marlboro	38 49 04	076 45 08	Spilled over onto road	278
Submitted by Ima Ham II								



**PRGE County Admin Bldg Upper Marlboro**



**Depot Pond behind Home Depot Upper Marlboro**



**Typical Water Level Gauge Systems**

## Selected Low Water Level Gauges Maryland - DC Section

District	County	Location	Lat	Lon	Beam Heading	Notes
Cent	ANAR	Sawmill Creek Rt 648 Glenn Burnie	39 10 12	076 37 50		
Cent	ANAR	Severn River at USNA	38 58 58	076 28 48		
Cent	BACI	Gwynns Falls at Washington Blvd	39 16 15	076 38 52		
Cent	BACI	Moores Run at Radecke Ave	39 19 48	076 32 06		
Cent	BACI	Moores Run Tributary at Todd Ave	39 20 11	076 32 22		
Cent	BACI	Stony Run at Ridgemedede Rd	39 21 22	076 37 32		
Cent	BACO	Gunpowder Falls nr Parkton	39 37 08	076 41 25		
Cent	CALV	Patuxent River at Solomons Island	38 19 03	076 27 14		
Cent	CECI	Big Elk Creek at Elk Mills	39 39 25	075 49 20		
Cent	CHAS	Mattawoman Creek nr Pomonkey	38 35 46	077 03 21		
Cent	CHAS	Zekiah Swamp nr Newtown	38 29 26	076 55 36		
Cent	DC	Anacostia river at Washington Gardens	38 54 56	076 56 33		
Cent	DC	Potomac River at Wisconsin Ave Georgetown	38 54 08	077 03 46		
Cent	DC	Rock Creek at Joyce Rd	38 57 37	077 02 32		
Cent	HARF	Chesapeake Bay at Harve de Grace	39 32 16	076 05 24		
Cent	HARF	Susquehanna River at Conowingo	39 39 22	076 10 31		
Cent	HOWA	Little Patuxent River nr Savage	39 08 02	076 48 58		
Cent	HOWA	Patapsco River at Hollofield	39 18 37	076 47 34		
Cent	HOWA	Patapsco River at Woodstock	39 19 53	076 52 13		
Cent	HOWA	Patapsco River at Ellicott City	39 16 04	076 47 40		
Cent	MONT	Hawlings River nr Sandy Spring	39 10 29	077 01 18		
Cent	MONT	Patuxent River below Brighton Dam	39 11 32	077 00 18		
Cent	MONT	Patuxent River at Rt 97nr Unity	39 14 18	077 03 20		
Cent	MONT	Potomac River at Edwards Ferry	39 05 50	077 28 12		Close by
Cent	MONT	Ten Mile Creek nr Boyds	39 12 59	077 18 59		
Cent	PRGE	Anacostia River Bladensburg	38 56 17	076 56 25		
Cent	PRGE	Back Branch nr Brown Landfill Upper Marlboro	38 49 52	076 46 16		
Cent	PRGE	Bear Branch above Lake Laurel	39 05 28	076 51 34		
Cent	PRGE	Beaverdam Creek nr Edmonston Rd Greenbelt	39 00 58	076 53 50		
Cent	PRGE	Cabin Branch nr Ritchie Marlboro Rd Upper Marlboro	38 50 23	076 48 29		
Cent	PRGE	Collington Branch at Mitchellville	38 52 08	076 44 45		
Cent	PRGE	Collington Branch nr Leeland Rd Upper Marlboro	38 52 06	076 44 45		

Selected Low Water Level Gauges  
Maryland - DC Section

District	County	Location	Lat	Lon	Beam Heading	Notes
Cent	PRGE	Depot Pond at Upper Marlboro	38 49 03	076 44 23	278	
Cent	PRGE	Indian Creek Odell Rd Beltsville	39 02 33	076 54 01		
Cent	PRGE	Little Paint Branch Briggs Chaney Rd Beltsville	39 03 38	076 55 40		
Cent	PRGE	NW Branch Anacostia River at N Brentwood	38 56 45	076 56 53		
Cent	PRGE	NW Branch Anacostia River nr Hyattsville	38 57 08	076 57 57		
Cent	PRGE	Patuxent River RT 50 Bowie	38 56 39	076 47 25		Close
Cent	PRGE	Patuxent River nr Bristol	38 46 59	076 42 52		
Cent	PRGE	Patuxent River nr Laurel (Duckett Dam)	39 06 56	076 52 27		
Cent	PRGE	Piscataway Creek at Piscataway	38 42 21	076 57 57		
Cent	PRGE	SW Branch at H.S. Truman Dr in Largo	38 52 36	076 49 38		Visit: 38 52 56//076 49 37
Cent	PRGE	Western Branch at Upper Marlboro	38 48 52	076 44 50		
Cent	STMA	St Marys River at Great Mills	38 14 30	076 30 13		
Cent	STMA	St Clement Creek nr Clements	38 19 59	076 43 29		
Cent	STMA	St Marys River at Straits Point	38 08 16	076 30 01		
East	DORC	Chesapeake Bay at Bishops Head	38 13 16	976 02 16		
East	DORC	Chesapeake Bay at Cambridge	38 34 25	076 04 05		
East	DORC	Chicamacomico River nr Salem	38 28 56	075 49 05		Look to the NW
East	KENT	Chesapeake Bay at Tolchester	39 13 00	076 14 05		Not precise
East	QUAN	Unicorn Branch nr Millington	39 14 59	075 51 39		
East	SOME	Manokin Branch nr Prince Anne	38 12 50	075 40 00		
East	WICO	Beaverdam Creek ar Salisbury	38 21 10	075 34 21		
East	WICO	Nanticoke River at Sharptown	38 32 38	075 43 11		
East	WORC	Atlantic Coast nr Ocean City Inlet	38 19 39	075 05 28		
West	ALLE	Georges Creek nr Westernport	39 29 37	079 02 40		
West	ALLE	N. Branch Potomac at Luke	39 28 46	079 03 50		
West	ALLE	N. Branch Potomac at Cumberland	39 37 19	078 46 24		
West	ALLE	Potomac River at Paw Paw	39 32 21	078 27 19		
West	ALLE	Sandy Spring Run at Frostburg	39 38 48	078 56 10		
West	ALLE	Wills Creek nr Cumberland	39 40 12	078 47 21		
West	CARR	Beaver Run nr Finksburg	39 29 24	076 54 11		
West	CARR	Cranberry Branch nr Westminster	39 35 34	076 58 04		
West	CARR	Morgan Run nr Louisville	39 27 06	076 57 19		

## Selected Low Water Level Gauges Maryland - DC Section

District	County	Location	Lat	Lon	Beam Heading	Notes
West	CARR	N. Branch Patapsco at Ceadarhurst	39 30 07	076 53 01		
West	CARR	N. Branch Patapsco at Liberty Reservoir	39 23 15	076 52 49		
West	FRED	Bennett Creek at Park Mills	39 17 40	077 24 25		
West	FRED	Big Pipe Creek at Bruceville	39 36 43	077 14 15		
West	FRED	Monocacy River at I-70	39 24 10	077 21 59		
West	FRED	Monocacy River at Rt 144 Bridgeport	39 40 45	077 14 02		
West	FRED	Potomac River at Point of Rocks	39 16 25	077 32 25		
West	GARR	Bear Creek at Friendsville	39 39 22	079 23 39		
West	GARR	N. Branch Potomac at Kitzmiller	39 23 37	079 10 54		
West	GARR	Savage River at Bloomington	39 30 05	079 07 29		
West	GARR	Savage River at Savage River Dam	39 30 26	079 08 03		
West	GARR	Savage River nr Barton	39 34 12	079 06 11		
West	GARR	Youghiogeny River nr Oakland	39 25 19	079 25 23		
West	WASH	Antietam Creek nr Sharpsburg	39 26 58	077 43 53		
West	WASH	Marsh Run at Grimes	39 30 53	077 46 37		
Lat/Lon data given in deg min sec						

The above list is not all inclusive. It is a subset of many listed across the country on the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Weather Service web page. It is not the intent to make this a contest in seeing who can get them all, rather an exercise to see how well we could "answer the mail" in serving our State served agencies. If you know of gauges not on the list, by all means use it instead or in addition.

Another possibility would be to locate any low lying areas in your county known to be a risk for that community. There probably will not be a gauge associated with that location. Record the GPS location for your report.

## References:

### Maryland - DC Emergency Coordinator List and Contact Information

County	4-Ltr Cnty Code	EC Name	Call	Email	Notes
Allegany	ALLE	Lynn DeHart	KB3FN	lwdehart@atlanticbb.net	acting
Anne Arundel	ANAR	Frank Winner	N3SEO	n3seo@arrl.net	
Baltimore City	BACI	Don Gerkin	W3DVG	w3dvg@arrl.net	
Baltimore County	BACO	Joseph Krystoforski	AJ3X	aj3x@arrl.net	
Calvert	CALV	Eric Christensen	WG3K	eric@christensenplace.us	
Caroline	CARO	vacant			
Carroll	CARR	Steve Beckman	N3SB	n3sb@arrl.net	
Cecil	CECI	George Remhof	KB3LJB	gremhof@yahoo.com	
Charles	CHAS	Bob Davidsion	KB3KOW	kb3kow@yahoo.com	
Dist of Columbia	DC	Jack Gunther	KB3KKY	jack.gunther@comcast.net	
Dorchester	DORC	vacant			
Frederick	FRED	Jeff Fishman	KB3FIO	ljfish1@comcast.net	
Garrett	GARR	Bill Shomo	KB3FMJ	kb3fmj@arrl.net	
Harford	HARF	Patrick Scolla	WB0EGR	wb0egr@arrl.net	
Howard	HOWA	Richard Firestone	WR3F	wr3f@arrl.net	
Kent	KENT	Ton Velvin	K3TMV	k3tmv@arrl.net	
Montgomery	MONT	Fred Bader	K3CSX	k3csx@arrl.net	
Prince George's	PRGE	Jim Montgomery	WB3KAS	wb3kas@arrl.net	
Queen Anne's	QA	vacant			
Sommerset	SOME	vacant			
St. Mary's	STMA	Ray Brown	KB3FWW	arby1@gmail.com	
Talbot	TALB	Bobb Luff	W3GAC	luff.bob@gmail.com	
Washington	WASH	Maurice Eigenbrode	NI2W	ni2w@arrl.net	
Wicomico	WICO	John Taylor	W3JCT	jctsbby@aol.com	
Worcester	WORC	vacant			
Updated: July 18, 2015					

## **August 15 Planning Meeting:**

Attendees to the planning meeting are asked to have available the following information:

1. Bring names of radio clubs you have contacted to join you in the SET exercise and whether they have agreed to help.
2. If teams have been set up or partially, tell us who they are: name, call sign, county. Not all that critical at this point, but it would be nice to know who has been “thinking outside the box” on this.

Updates and adjustments to the Plan will be sent out to all meeting participants in a few days. In order to stay on top of all SET issues, discussions and general questions, I recommend everyone take advantage of the ARRL MDC Section Yahoo site to post questions, share concerns, etc, located at:

<https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/ARRLMDCSECTION/info>

If you are not a member of the group, please sign up and encourage others to do so as well.