

SCENARIO: A strong low-pressure system with southeasterly air flow has produced several inches of rain and moderating temperatures. The warming temperatures have accelerated snow melt in addition to breaking up ice formations on the rivers and their tributaries. Ice jams are being reported on the Allegheny and Youghiogheny along with many streams in all counties. Increased flow rates and rising waters are also reported in waterways throughout Western Pennsylvania. Spotter activation has been requested by the National Weather Service (NWS). The United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has requested observation of waterways within their project areas. Both the NWS and USACE have requested that condition reports be provided that will be disseminated and provided to County Emergency Management Agencies. River and stream icing leads to ice jams. Rivers, their tributaries, and streams are known to flash flood – waterway areas are prone to ice jams and localized flooding. Served agencies for this drill are the NWS and the USACE. The purpose of this drill is to observe and report river, stream, and dam high water/ice conditions **in a safe manner. Under no circumstances are we to go directly to the edge of the water to obtain data! This can be accomplished safely on firm ground far away from the water in our parked vehicles using a pair of binoculars.**

REPORTING: Individual counties will have net control operators for communications with their respective field teams. Field teams will observe conditions along waterways within their respective counties and report river/stream/dam/ice conditions to their respective county net control stations. Conditions will be relayed by net control stations to:

- FLDIGI to W3SO for NWS (they will relay NWS Pittsburgh traffic to K3MJW Skyview).
- ICS-213 to respective USACE Resource Managers.
- **W3KWH Steel City ARC will handle NWS Pittsburgh traffic from K3MJW**

Hydrology reports will include:

- Waterway name with coordinates and nearest town
- Behavior/Flow Rate/Estimated Gauge Depth at locks and dams
- Ice conditions and estimated thickness

Locks and Dams:

- **Allegheny River:** Locks/Dams 2-9 Pittsburgh to Templeton
- **Monongahela:** Braddock #2, Elizabeth #3, Charleroi #4, Maxwell, Gray's Landing, Point Marion
- **Ohio River:** Emsworth, Dashields, Montgomery

Flood Control:

- **Armstrong County:** Crooked Creek Lake - Ford City
- **Armstrong County:** Mahoning Creek Lake - Redbank Township
- **Crawford County:** Woodcock Creek Lake – 22079 State Highway 198 – Saegertown
- **Elk County:** East Branch Clarion River Lake – 631 East Branch Dam Road – Wilcox
- **Erie County:** Union City Dam – Middleton Road – Union City
- **Fayette County:** Youghiogheny River Lake – 497 Flanigan Road – Confluence
- **Forest County:** Tionesta Lake – 477 Spillway Road – Tionesta
- **Indiana County:** Conemaugh River Lake – 1665 Aven Road, Suite A – Saltsburg
- **Mercer County:** Shenango River Lake – 2442 Kelly Road – Hermitage
- **Warren County:** Kinzua Dam/Allegheny Reservoir, 1205 Kinzua Road, Warren
- **Westmoreland County:** Loyalhanna Lake, 4400 Loyalhanna Dam Road – Saltsburg

MESSAGING NOTES:

- **Radiograms:** K3MJW handles inbound and outbound. **W3KWH will monitor 3.973 for radiogram traffic.**
- 3.983 inbound – 3.973 outbound
- Radiograms can be general in nature or may be requests made by local government agencies for response requests

Digital Ops:

- W3SO FLDIGI ops – 3.582 KHz primary, 7.082 secondary
 - Reports for Skywarn and river observations - NWS Pittsburgh and State College
- County NCS gathers info from field teams then forwards info via FLDIGI to respective NWS receiving stations
- **Digital Messaging:** FLDIGI messaging handled by W3SO for NWS reports.
- Western PA DMR Talkgroup Back Channel TG 31422 will be secondary means of contact with W3SO

60 Meter Notes:

- Using Channel 5: 5403.5 KHz
 - We are secondary on this band
 - Only General, Advanced, and Extra class licensees permitted on this band
 - Effective radiated power limit is 100 watts PEP relative to a half-wave dipole
- Each county net control will check in with N3TIR Bud at beginning of exercise
- Each county checked in will then be individually directed to contact each checked in county
- Upon completion of individual county contacts, participating counties will provide N3TIR with confirmation of counties contacted

SKYWARN NOTES:

- All participating counties will open a Skywarn net on their respective county ARES repeater frequency.

INTEROP NOTES:

- All counties are encouraged to contact their neighboring county by repeater and/or simplex frequency.

OTHER:

- Thank you in advance to all who are participating
- Please be observant and resourceful during the exercise
- Please be patient with those who are participating in this exercise for the first time...
- Remember: There is no I in TEAM

73,

Steve Fazekas, K3FAZ Assistant Section Manager

Bob Mente, NU3Q Allegheny County Emergency Coordinator