

Alabama Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES)

Alabama ARES, Sky Warn Spotters, and Response Teams

OCTOBER 31st, 2026 8AM CT to 12 Noon

Please send this email to all ARES/ Sky Warn / Em-Comm groups so that we can encourage maximum participation in the 2026 Simulated Emergency test. Let us in Alabama take the top spot in the Nation once again. I will be conducting meetings around the State to encourage all amateur Radio Operators to participate and to assist group on the means and methods of getting good scores for your group.

If you have any questions, please feel free to send me an email.

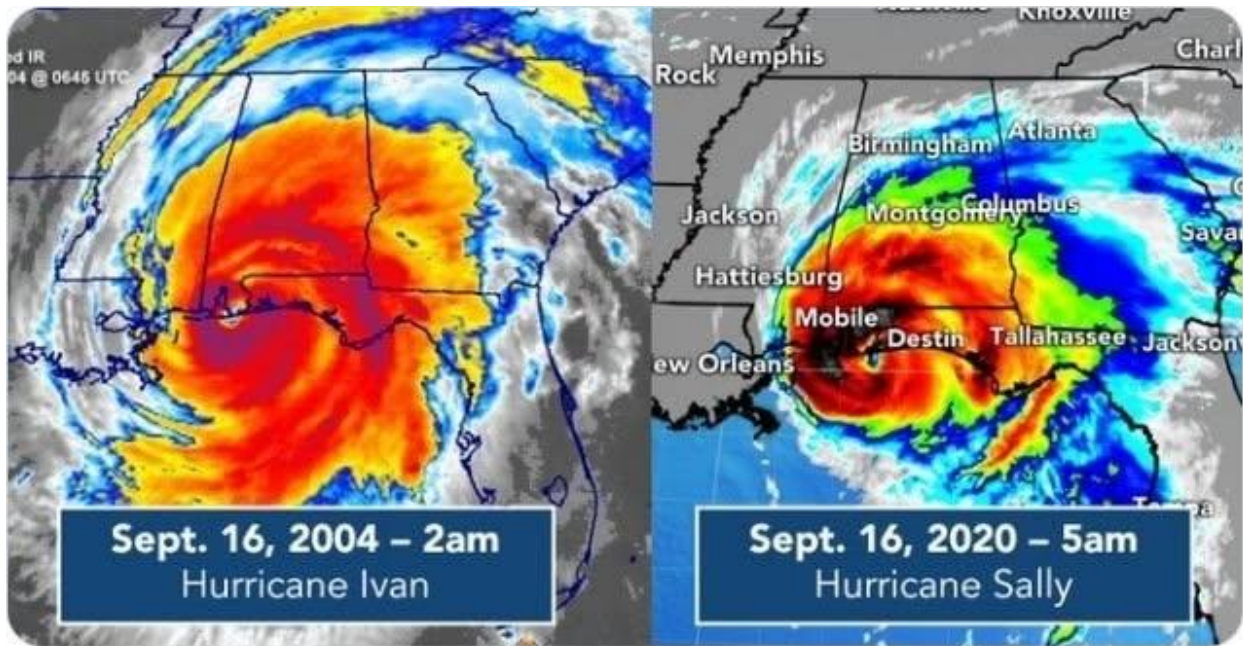
Respectfully,
Mike Watkins, WX4AL
SET Coordinator
AL Section Assistant Section EC

THIS IS AN EXERCISE

THE 2026 ALABAMA ARRL

SIMULATED EMERGENCY TEST (SET)

ARE YOU PREPARED TO RESPOND TO DISASTERS ?



Estimated \$26.1 Billion in Damages

Estimated \$7.3 Billion In Damages

Alabama Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES)

Alabama ARES / AuxComm Response Teams

OCTOBER 31st, 2026 8AM CT to 12 Noon

Note: Alabama and Auburn have no home games that day and since the exercise ends at 12 noon, it also doesn't interfere with any family evening activities related to Halloween.

Prepared by
Dennis Littleton, AL Section Manager K4DL
Kevin Turley, K9ADE, Alabama Section EC
Mike Watkins, WX4AL, AL Asst. Section EC
Review by District Emergency Coordinators Pending
SET PLAN Version Date: 8/1/2026

ALABAMA ARRL SET PLAN

SECTION 1

2026 Simulated Emergency Test Preparation, Resources and Reporting

1. National Interoperability Field Operations Guide (NIFOG) 2024:

<https://www.cisa.gov/resources-tools/resources/field-operations-guides>

[Auxiliary Communications Field Operations Guide \(AUXFOG\)](#)

[NIFOG Programming Guide for Interoperability Channels](#)

[NIFOG Programming Template for Interoperability Channels](#)

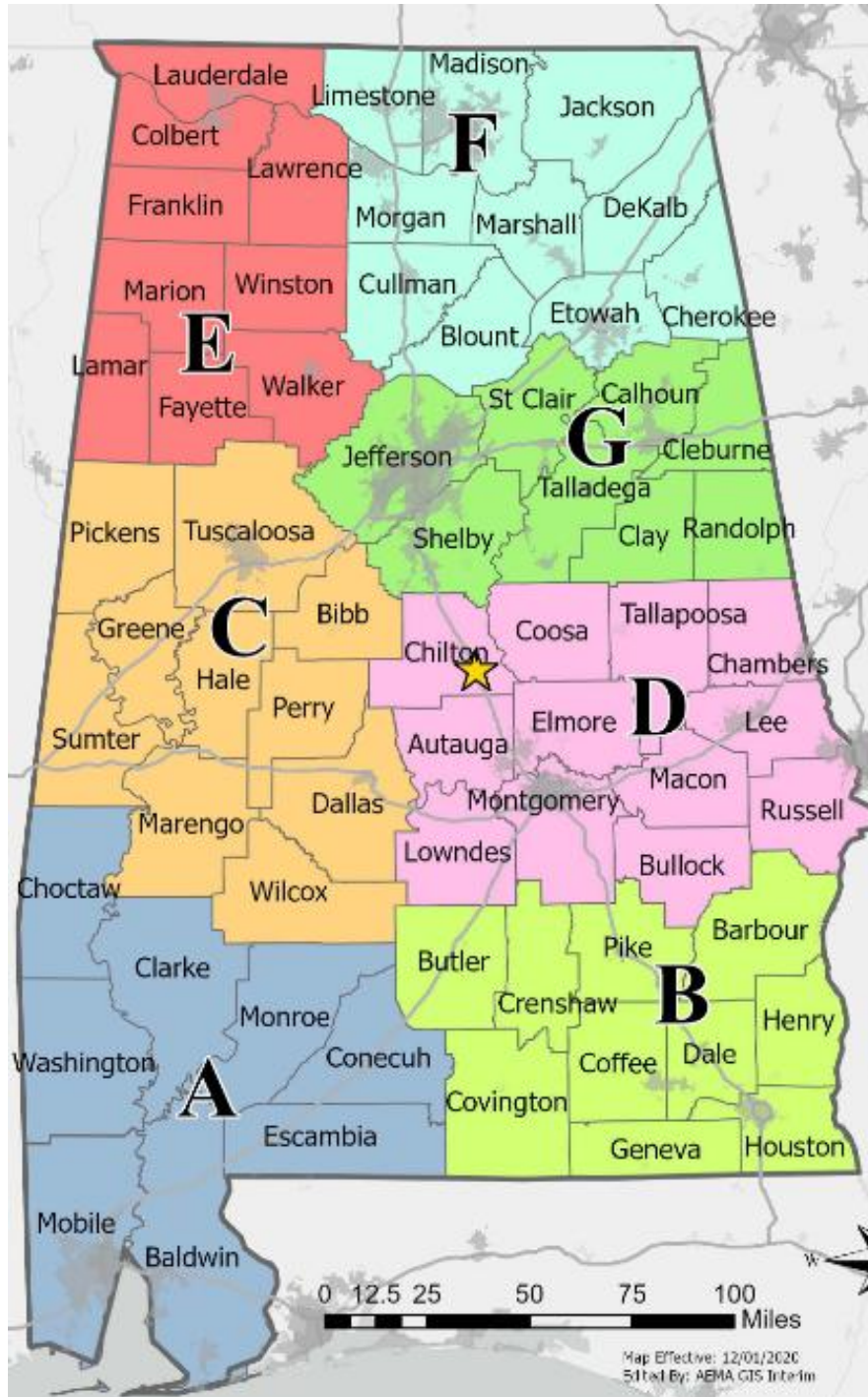
2. Huntsville Hamfest ARES Forum SET Briefing August 2025 and other Briefings around the State in preparation for this Exercise.

3. ARRL SET Forms A and B: <https://ares.arrl.org/areset/>

4. ARRL Submission Link: <https://field-day.arrl.org/fdentry.php>

5. ICS-213 General Message FORM: <https://hamsites-688928000278-us-east-2-an.s3.us-east-2.amazonaws.com/ICS+Form+213%2C+General+Message.pdf>

Alabama Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) District Map



The Star marks the Alabama State EMA Location in Clanton, AL.

DISTRICT EMERGENCY COORDINATORS (DECs)

District A - Roy Davis, K5RMD

Baldwin, Choctaw, Clarke, Conecuh, Escambia, Mobile, and Washington

District B* - Kevin Turley, K9ADE

Barbour, Butler, Coffee, Covington, Crenshaw, Dale, Geneva, Henry, Houston, and Pike

District C* - Vacant (Dennis Littleton, K4DL)

Bibb, Dallas, Greene, Hale, Marengo, Perry, Pickens, Sumter, Tuscaloosa, and Wilcox

District D* - **TBA**

Autauga, Bullock, Chambers, Chilton, Coosa, Elmore, Lee, Lowndes, Macon, Montgomery, Russell, and Tallapoosa

District E - David Bash, W4GMI

Colbert, Fayette, Franklin, Lamar, Lauderdale, Lawrence, Marion, Walker, and Winston

District F* - Steve Molo, KI4KWR

Blount, Cherokee, Cullman, DeKalb, Etowah, Jackson, Limestone, Madison, Marshall, and Morgan

District G - Ronnie King, WX4HAM

Calhoun, Clay, Cleburne, Jefferson, Randolph, Shelby, St. Clair, Talladega

Alabama Section Officers

Section Manager: Dennis Littleton, K4DL

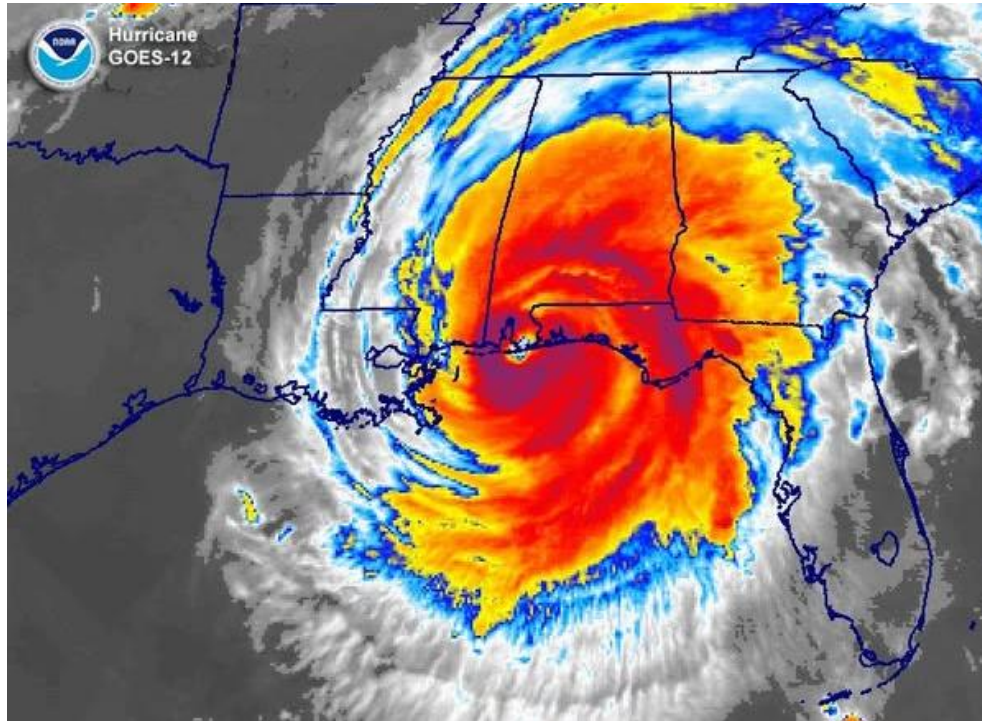
Section Emergency Coordinator: Kevin Turley K9ADE

Assistant Section EC: Mike Watkins, WX4AL

Section PIO: William E. Bussey KJ4JJ

SET PLAN SECTION 2

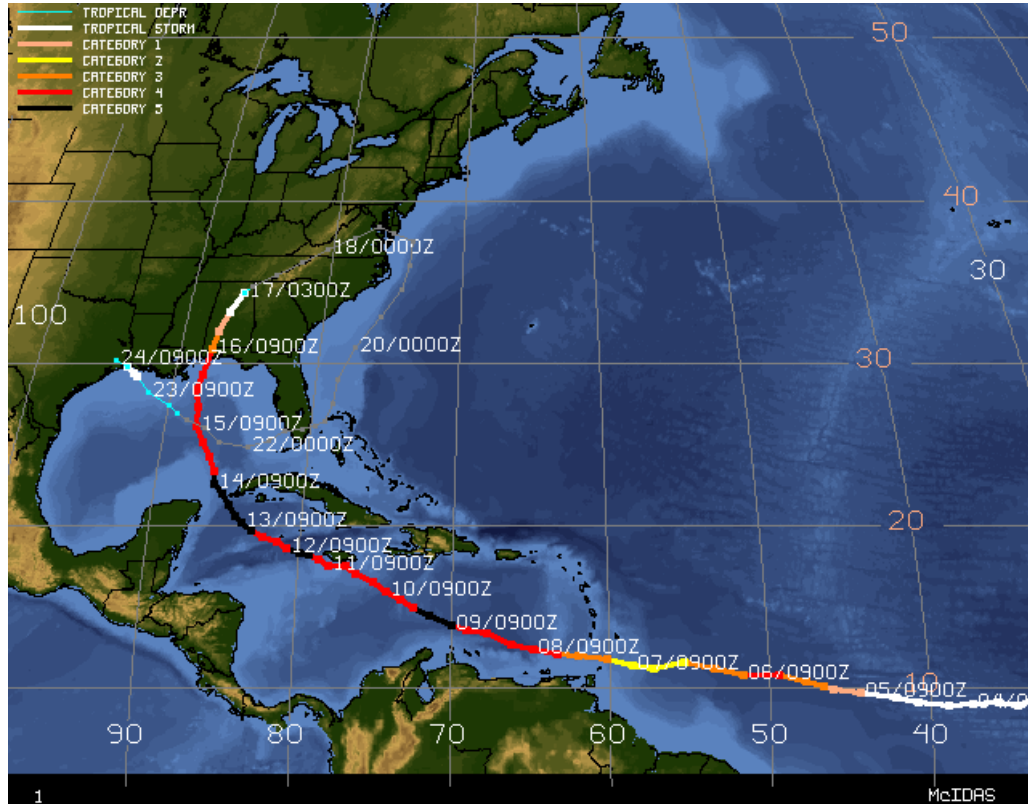
ARRL SIMULATED EMERGENCY TEST SCENARIO



This is an Exercise for Training Purposes

SET Situation: A **Category 5** Hurricane has entered Mobile Bay. Its predicted path will take a northeasterly track across Alabama. The effects of this storm will vary from its initial entry into the lower third of Alabama as it crosses from Mobile Bay (District A) to a more northeasterly track. Districts B, C, D, E, F, and G will experience wide ranging Hurricane effects such as high winds, possible tornadoes, downed trees, and loss of power as the remnants of this hurricane move through northeast Alabama.

Hurricane Effects Scenario by Districts:



Districts A and C are directly in the path of this large hurricane. District A will have sustained winds of 120mph at landfall. Prior to landfall, this Hurricane will reach a Category-5 with winds near 160mph. District A and C will have widespread power outages, flooding, road blockages from downed trees and power lines, and many destroyed homes and structures. Bridges over bays and canals will likely have heavy surf and surge damage making them unusable. Many residents will not be able to travel to shelters if they did not arrive before Hurricane landfall.

Expect nearly a complete loss of power in both Districts A and C. Potable water may well be an issue to resident as salt-water moves several miles inland into fresh water reservoirs. Generator safety protocols should be reviewed to eliminate any chance of back-feeding through the power company lines due to improper connection to the house wiring, thereby posing a great risk to power line personnel as well as a risk of fire.

Interstate 65 will be closed to southbound-traffic as all interstate lanes will be used for northbound evacuation during this emergency.

Districts B and D will be vulnerable to extensive flooding, blocked roads, high winds capable structural damage, road closures with downed trees, and power lines by this Hurricane. Winds at this point have fallen to 70-80mph but the risk of tornadoes will be significant within Districts C and D to the east as well as Districts G and E to the west. Localized heavy flooding is likely to occur. Expect loss of power due to hurricane force winds bringing down trees into contact with houses, power lines, and blocking roads.

Districts E, F, and G will experience high winds and torrential rain as the Hurricane has moved 250 miles inland to northern Alabama. While the winds have dropped to under 80mph, the risk of spin-up tornadoes remains high as well as localized flooding due to sustained rains from this large hurricane.

Downed trees and power lines resulting in widespread power outages and road blockages are possible. Residents seeking storm shelters should be in place before hurricane force winds arrive that may result in roads blocked by fallen trees, power lines, and bridges closed by authorities.

SET PLAN SECTION 3

ARES and AUXCOMM Operational Notes

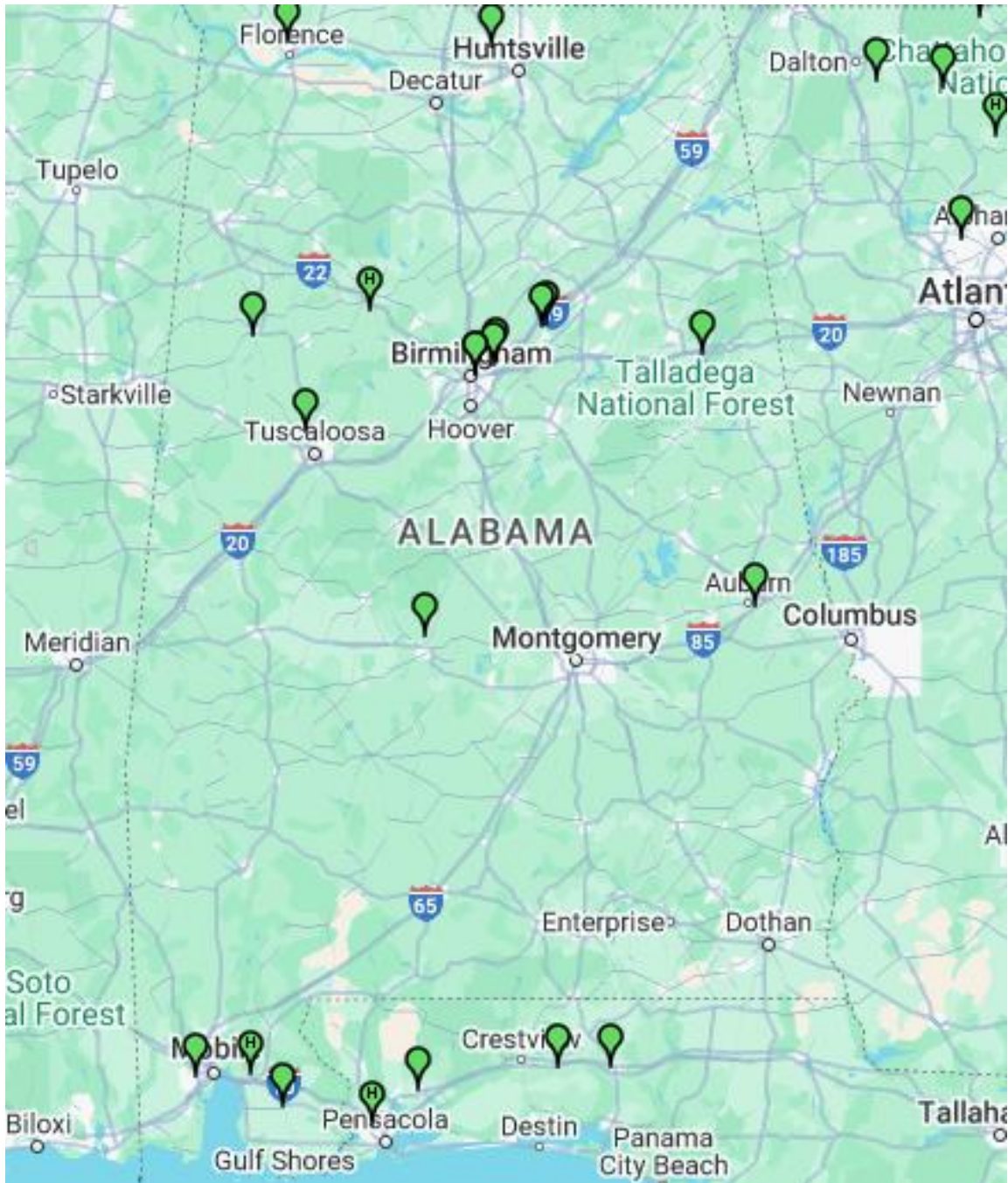
1. Never self-deploy to a disaster location without having approval to respond to requests for qualified ham radio operators by a Served Agency. Once properly vetted, the local Agency in charge will conduct an ARES/AUXCOMM briefing, and an assignment issued to an operator by the local ARES Emergency Coordinator in your County, local EMA, or other Authorities Having Jurisdiction (AHJ). Contact your County or District EC before deploying into a disaster area for volunteering procedures and volunteering instructions.

2. SHELTERS: Where Amateur Radio Operators are requested to provide a communications link to storm shelters, arrive early to set up radios and portable antennas with ample battery power. An operator at the local EMA will be able to pass shelter messages to and from Shelter Operators. Use low power when possible if commercial power is not available.
3. Maintain an accurate communications log whenever you are engaged in support operations of a Served Agency. These logs contain important information as well as demonstrating the value of Amateur Radio Operators in times of emergency.

SET COMMUNICATIONS PLAN SECTION 4

- A. Frequencies/Modes of Operation by ARES / Alabama AuxComm.
 1. Local 2m/70cm analog and digital (D-STAR, DMR) repeaters are encouraged to be used if available due to familiarity with local repeaters. HF on the Alabama ARES should use the 3965khz or the back up of 7243khz as band conditions allow.
 2. WINLINK should be used to send reports either by locally available WINLINK Nodes (see map below) or by HF WINLINK PMBOs. WINLINK has the capacity to use ICS-213 forms. This ICS form should be used for communications with served agencies and between amateur radio Operators during the **2026 Simulated Emergency Test**.

WINLINK STATION MAP

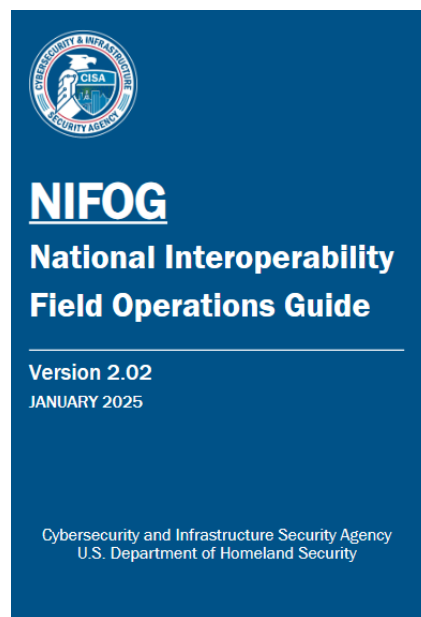


<https://winlink.org/RMSChannels>

B. National Interoperability Field Operations Guide (NIFOG)

LINK: [National Interoperability Field Operations Guide \(NIFOG\)](#)

This guide is a valuable tool to mesh with other agency response teams in the field for communications. Download it from the link above.



C. Networked Repeaters and Links Used by Alabama RES/AuxComm

- D-STAR: REF58B
- DMR: AL LINK on Amcomm Server 31010
- WINLINK NODES via RF or by internet connection. Winlink supports ICS forms in use such as ICS-205, ICS-205A, ICS-213, ICS-214, and ICS-217 and other forms as needed.
- Conduct a local area simplex net on 2m/70cm band with a net log
NIFOG Page 105: **2m Frequency: 146.520** or **70cm: 446.000mhz**

SET

Winning Strategies: MAXIMIZE YOUR POINTS VIA THE SET FORMS!

EXAMPLE: Five Amateur Operators: Amateur Small Group Set Effort

SET FORM A: Check the ARRL Website for the latest forms

- Number of hams participating: **5 at 2 points ea.** **10 points**
- Number of new hams (licensed since 2021): **3 at 3 points ea.** **9 points**
- Number of formal 3rd party traffic for Served agencies: **3 at 1 point ea.** **3 points**
- Tactical communications for served agencies 1 hour: **1 hour** **20 points.**
- Number of Stations on emergency power during SET: **5 at 2 points ea.** **10 points**
- Number of emergency powered repeaters used during SET: **3 at 10 pts ea** **30 points**
(Give repeater call signs)
- Dual membership an ARES and AUXCOMM actively encouraged? **10 points**
YES. Dual membership in ARES and AUXCOMM is encouraged in Alabama.
- ARES members actively encouraged to take SkyWarn classes and **10 Points**
participate in Nets? **YES**
- Was liaison maintained during the SET with an NTS section or **10 Points**
Local net? **YES**
- Were digital modes utilized at any time during the exercise? **YES**
Name the digital modes used: WinLink/DMR/D-STAR **3 at 10 points ea.** **30 Points**
- Number of different agencies for which communications were
handled? **YES 1 agency at 10 points each** **10 Points**
- Number of Communities in which agencies were contacted? **30 Points**
YES (Name each community on the map) three communities 10pts each
- Press released submitted: **10 points**

- Bonus: Is your group represented by an ARRL Public Information Officer? **YES**

10 points

FORM A TOTAL POINTS:

202 points

SET FORM B: Check the ARRL Website for the latest forms

ARRL Section: ALABAMA

Net Name:

Coverage Area:

Net Manager's Call sign:

E-mail address: BigNetBoss@hams.com

Date of SET activity: 10/25/2025

Is the net associated with ARES? Yes: ☒ | No: ☐

Is the net part of the National Traffic System? Yes: ☒ | No: ☐

Is the net associated with the National Weather Service SKYWARN program? Yes: ☒ | No: ☐

Liaison was maintained with NTS nets? Yes: ☒ | No: ☐

NTS Nets:

Was this net affiliated with a local agency having jurisdiction? Yes: ☒ | No: ☐

Local agency having jurisdiction:

Traffic Totals

Emergency	0
Priority	1
Welfare	2
Routine	3
ICS-213	3
Severe Weather Reports	1
TOTAL	10

Total time of operation: Hours | Minutes

	Points	
A. TOTAL number of messages handled	7	7
B. Number of different stations participating	4	8
C. Number of different stations checking-in on emergency power	4	8
D. Number of new amateurs (licensed since 2021) participating	1	3
E. Number of different net control stations	3	15
F. Number of different stations performing NTS liaison (including stations who liaise <i>from</i> local nets to higher nets)	1	5

FORM B TOTAL POINTS **46**

Form A and Form B Total Set Points: 248

Start your SET planning today!

Notes:

The Alabama Section staff will be presenting SET strategies for Amateur Radio / AUXCOMM operators on how to maximize your SET Scores with proper design

and planning at various locations around the State. I hope to see you at these briefings. We will publish them as they are confirmed. Stay tuned for updates.