

2020 Maryland – DC Section  
Simulated Emergency Test



**Maryland - District of Columbia**

ARES® Simulated Emergency Test  
Exercise Plan ver 3.0

October 10, 2020



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## Preface

The Maryland - DC Section is probably the most unique ARRL Section in the League. Mountains to the West, rivers and tributaries through the Central Region and vacation beaches off the Eastern Shore. . .and the common theme is what? Water. Heavy snow runoff in the far west coupled with the spring swollen rivers in central state and potential high water levels of the hurricanes. This is another opportunity to demonstrate additional capability to the State; chase down water level gauges assisting in their decision making process.

## **Maryland - DC Section 2020 Simulated Emergency Test Exercise Plan**

### **1.0 References**

Article in *QST* September 2020 p.64: “2020 Simulated Emergency Test” by Steve Ewald, WV1X.

### **2.0 Introduction**

This is the master plan for the 2020 ARRL Simulated Emergency Test (SET) Exercise for the Maryland–DC (MDC) Section. It will address all aspects of the Exercise within the confines of the MDC Section.

### **3.0 SET Date and Time**

The SET will commence at 0800L on Saturday October 10, 2020 and will end at approximately 1200L on the same day. Reporting may be conducted underway or upon return to home base.

### **4.0 SET Defined**

The ARRL Simulated Emergency Test, held in October each year, is a nationwide exercise in emergency communications, administered by ARRL Emergency Coordinators and Net Managers. The SET weekend gives communicators the opportunity to focus on the emergency communications capability within their community.

### **5.0 Purpose**

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

### **6.0 SET Objectives**

- 6.1 Demonstrate the capability to photograph, track and deliver required water level conditions at various locations in and around the Section as best as we can.
- 6.2 Demonstrate the ability to coordinate and work with adjacent ARES® Groups in accomplishing a required task as best as we can.
- 6.3 Demonstrate the feasibility of marrying APRS and Winlink 2000 to provide a means to an end as best as we can.
- 6.4 Demonstrate the ability to engage in a deployment as best as we can.

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#### **7.0 Background**

As of this writing, (1 September 2020) a total of 16 tropical depressions, 15 tropical storms, seven land falls, four hurricanes and one major hurricane have developed. The 2020 Atlantic hurricane season has already smashed records for the number of named storms so early in the season. The hurricane season peaks around September 10.

#### **8.0 Participants**

Any and all ARES/RACES Groups, ACS Groups MARS and Amateur Radio Clubs in the Section are most welcome to join in and participate in the State wide exercise.

#### **9.0 MDC Section SET Scenario**

Following a near miss of a hurricane and isolated tornados, State wide rivers and streams have swelled 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 status of gauges and report water levels approaching flood stage at various known locations throughout the state. Specific MEMA information requested are gauge condition, general location, GPS coordinates and a photograph.

#### **10.0 Plan of Action**

There are two statewide water status reporting systems on the Internet. One is the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Water Level Gauge Status and the other is the U.S. Geological Survey Water Flow Status. The MDC Section SET will use the NOAA gauge locations.

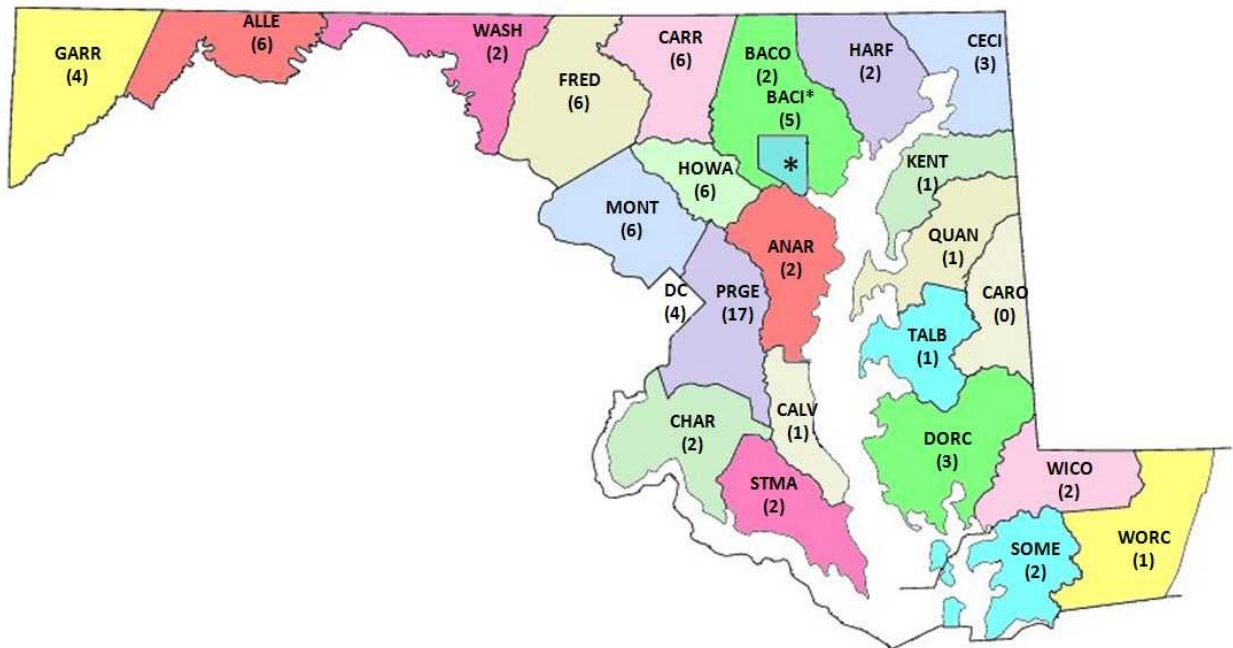
At 0800L Saturday morning, the survey teams will deploy a buddy system to previously researched designated flood prone areas and begin relaying MEMA requested information back to a centralized-county command post. Survey teams will have an APRS/voice/data operator in the passenger seat. Multiple teams will survey multiple sites during their deployment to canvass a good segment of their county.

#### **11.0 Tracking the Teams**

In the interest of safety, tracking will be accomplished via APRS by local and long distance support. Surveyors should 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.

## 12.0 Selected NOAA Water Gauges

Selected NOAA water gauges in the MDC Section were chosen from the map found at <https://water.weather.gov/ahps/region.php?state=md>. The map below shows the range and depth of the SET mission. Numbers in parentheses represent gauges selected for that county.



**Figure 1: Selected NOAA Water Gauges**

Caroline (CARO) county is the only MDC Section county that does not have NOAA water gauges. However, they do have several NCGS water flow gauges.

The list of selected Section gauges on pages 15-17 is a subset of many listed across the Section on the NOAA's National Weather Service web page. This is not a contest. It is not the intent to see who can get them all. The intent is to see how well we could "answer the mail" in supporting our State served agencies.

All these gauge sites have not been verified nor have they been visited by the SEC prior to the SET. It is possible that some may be totally unreachable. Note that in your observation report.

Another possibility would be to locate any low lying areas in your county known to be a risk for that community. Call your county emergency manager and ask if such a list exists. There probably will not be a gauge associated with that location. Record the GPS location for your report.

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These are typical gauges found in PRGE county and may be typical around the state as well.

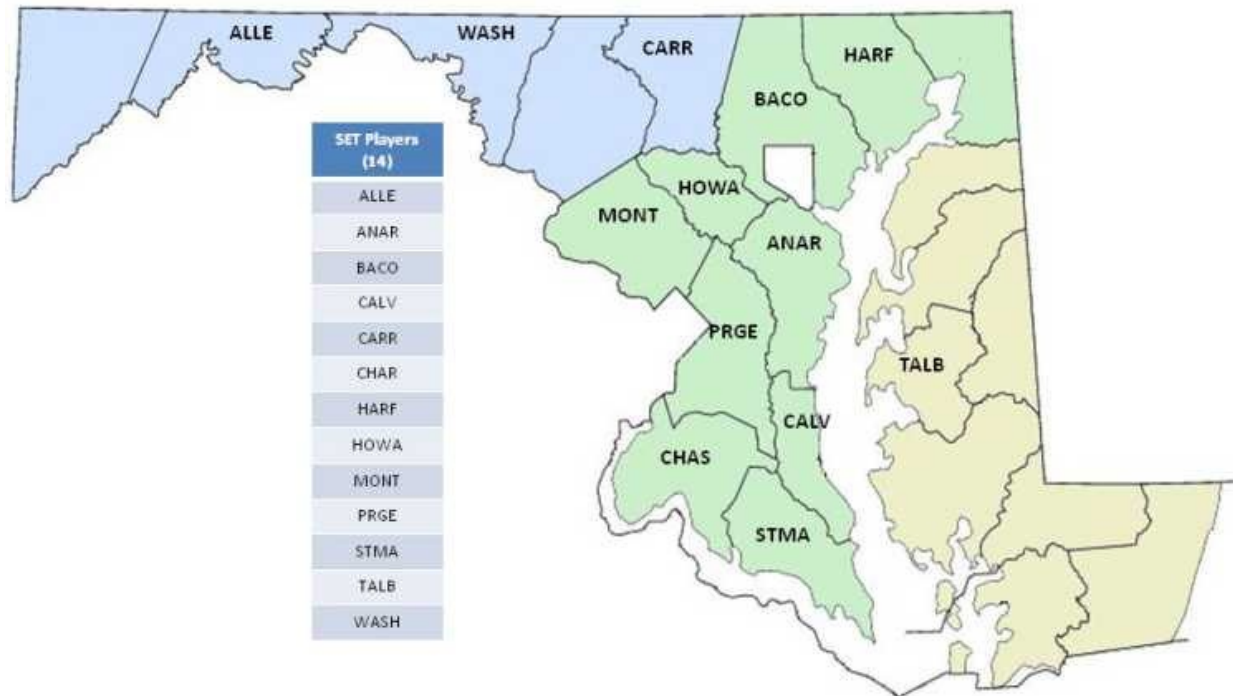


**Figure 7: Typical Water Level Gauge Systems**



### 13.0 Known SET Supporting Counties

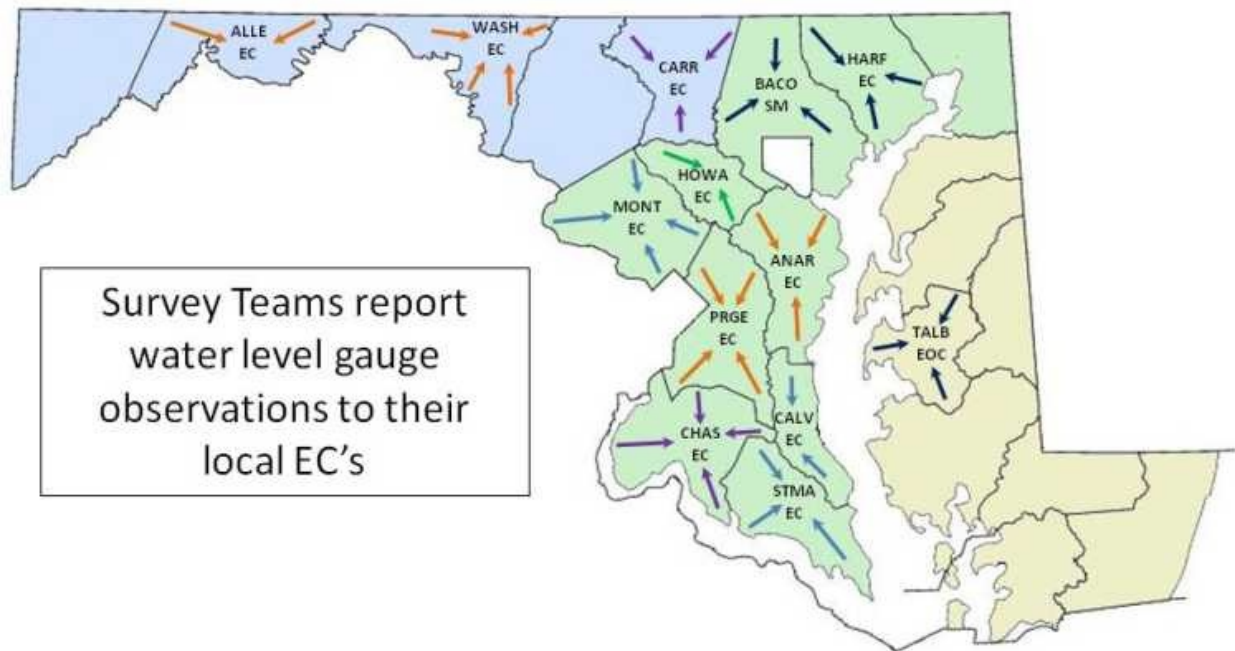
As of September 10, thirteen counties are now in the mix of players. See Figure 2 below for the list.



**Figure: 2 Counties Supporting the 2020 MDC Section SET**

All counties in the MDC Section do not have appointed ARRL Emergency Coordinators. Counties identifies in Figure 2 have appointed EC's and have agreed to support the 2020 MDC Section SET.

We are counting on TALB and CARO EC's to pick up a few water gauges in their neighboring counties



**Figure 3: Water Gauge Information Sent to County EC's**

#### **14.0 Communication Information Paths**

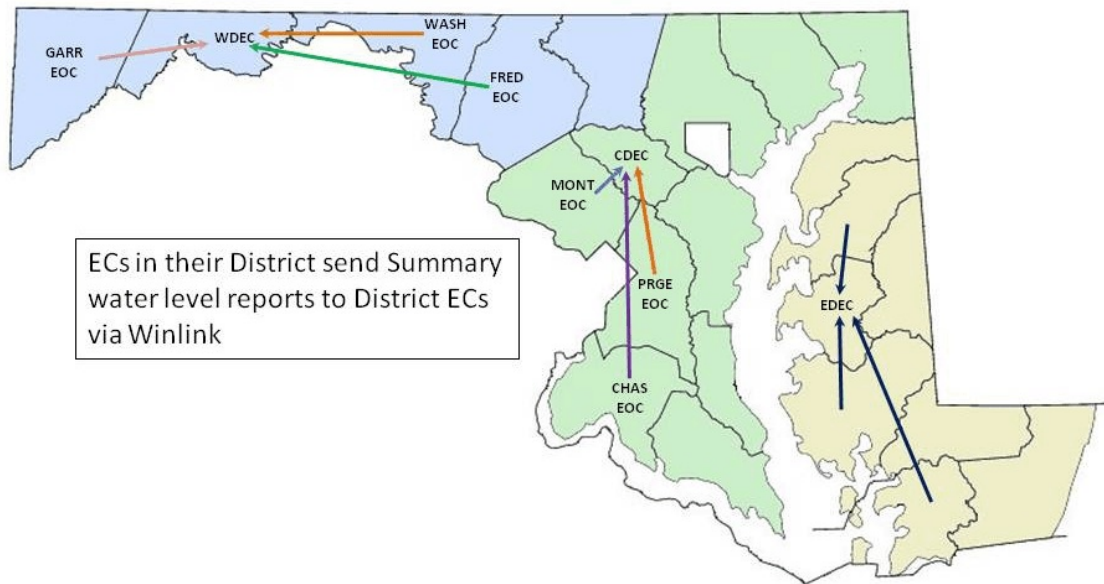
The roll up of survey results would look like this:

- 14.1 County survey teams send reports to central point (their EC) within the county. (See Figure 3)
- 14.2 County ECs send reports to their DEC's. (See Figure 4)
- 14.3 District EC's send their reports to the MDC SEC. (See Figure 5)
- 14.4 MDC SEC SET Report to MEMA. (See Figure 6)

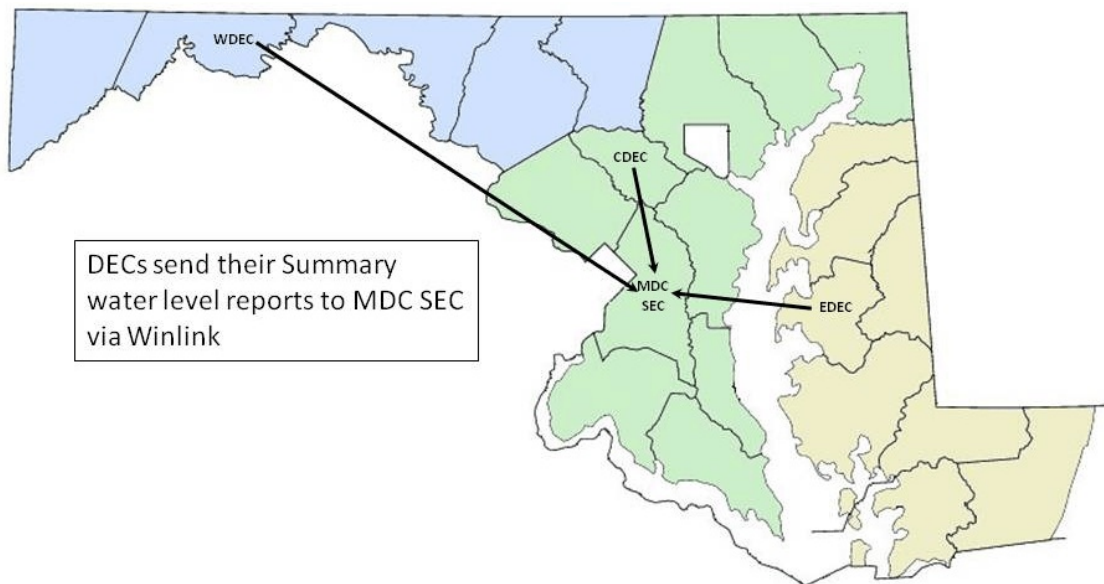


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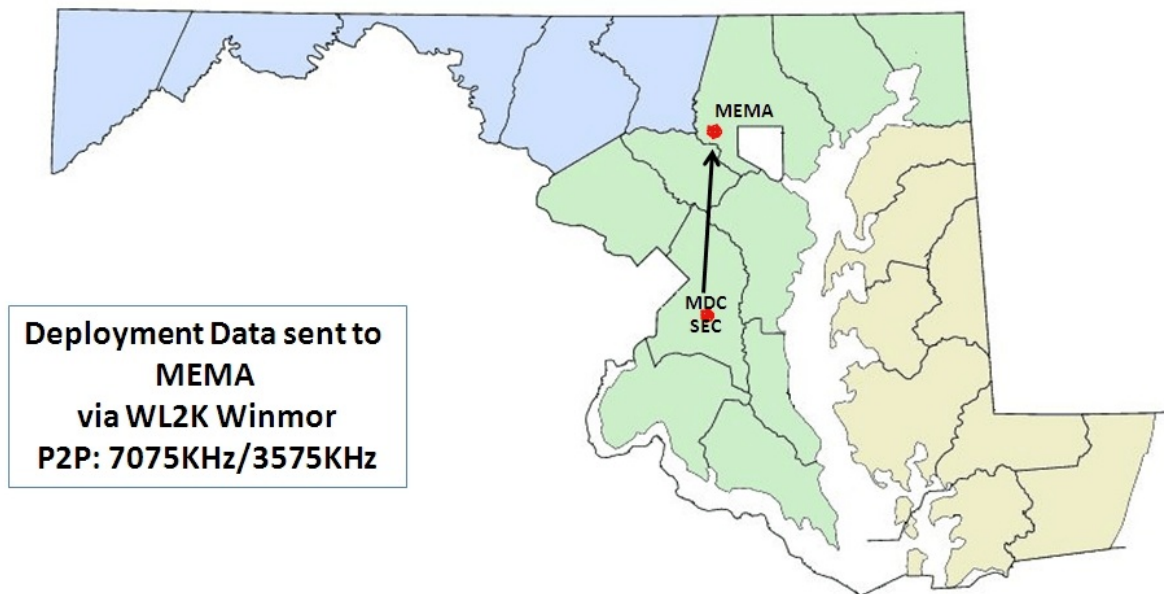
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**Figure 4: EC Reports to DECs**



**Figure 5: DEC Reports to MDC SEC**

**Figure 6: MDC SEC SET Report to MEMA**

## 15.0 Communication Options

It is suggested that you monitor your local county repeater and the C.M.R.G. 440 Linking System while underway. Table 1 shows the 440 repeaters comprising the linking System.

Central Maryland Repeater Group Repeater System			
QTH	Frequency (MHz)	Tone	Call Sign
Laurel	444.7000 +	167.9Hz	WA3GPC
Suitland	448.9250 -	167.9Hz	N3ST
Frederick	444.1000 +	167.9Hz	N3ST
Baltimore	449.6750 -	167.9Hz	N3ST
Orme (Baden)	447.0750 -	167.9Hz	N3ARN
Table 1			

All county Amateur Radio groups playing in the Exercise may not yet have the ability to utilize Winlink 2000 to pass their observation results to their county collection point. They may use any means at their disposal to perform this function. If the designated county has in place a mode of choice, then use it. However, emergency communications across county lines in the MDC Section shall use the Winlink protocol to achieve this objective.

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Those desiring to use their cell phones to send email or text message to their county collection point may do so. When doing so, use the numbering system found in the ICS-213 form on page 12.

Those wishing to send their observation via commercial methods may do so by the following manner:

15.1 Address your Winlink email message to call sign at winlink.org

15.2 The subject line must start with //WL2K <space> subject matter

Example: //WL2K PRGE Water Level Gauge Report

The key is to use whatever means available to send your report to your central receiving collection point.

### **16.0 Data Acquisition**

Information requested at the gauge site is quite simple. Acquire the beam heading if capable. This may not be possible in locations where the closest point of approach is at a distance. Confirm the latitude/longitude coordinates at the gauge site. Take a photograph of the gauge. Send/relay this information to your central collection location for further processing.

Photos in Winlink must be/be should be no larger that ~20K. Use the picture reduction feature with Winlink Express.

### **17.0 Email Addresses**

Table 2 provided below contain email information necessary for sending survey reports.

Function	Call Sign	Email Address
SEC	WB3KAS	wb3kas@winlink.org
EDEC	W3GAC	w3gac@winlink.org
CDEC	tbd	
WDEC	KB3FN	kb3fn@winlink.org
Individual county collection point emails are established by individual county EC's		
Table 2		

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#### **18.0 Sending Reports**

Send Gauge Reports to your county collection point, most likely your county ARES EC or his designated representative using the ICS-213 General Message (modified) shown below.

Once the county EC is satisfied that all the local survey reports have been received, he will send his rolled up spreadsheet, as outlined in paragraph 14.0, to the Region District Emergency Coordinator. The Region DEC will combine all county reports into a single Region report to the SEC at the email noted in paragraph 19.0.

The SEC will combine the three Region spread sheet reports into his report going to the MEMA rep hopefully the following day.

1. <b>Incident Name:</b> 2020 ARRL MDC Section SET		
2. <b>To:</b> <your county collection point>		
3. <b>From:</b> <county collection Team Lead>		
4. <b>Subject:</b> Selected NOAA Water Gauge(s)	5. <b>Date:</b> October 10, 2020	6. <b>Time:</b>
7. <b>Message:</b>  Pass message to MDC Section Emergency Coordinator, WB3KAS at mdcsec@winlink.org  One Message per Water Gauge Report  7a. <b>Gauge Location/NOAA ID from NOAA Table:</b>  7b. <b>Able to see the Gauge?:</b> y/n  7c. <b>Gauge Condition:</b>  7d. <b>GPS Coordinates:</b>  7e. <b>Water Level (subjective):</b> Low/High/No water seen  7f. <b>Additional Information, Comments or Remarks:</b>		
8. <b>Approved by: Name:</b>	<b>Call Sign:</b>	<b>Position/Title:</b>
9. <b>Sender's Email Address:</b>		
ICS 213 SET		

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#### **19.0 Safety Concern**

If you have a yellow EmComm vest of any kind, wear it. If you have the magnetic vehicle ARES sign put it on your car. Be mindful of your surroundings. Do not jeopardize your life trying to get a closer look at the gauge; it's not worth it! If anybody stops and wants to know what is going on, show them this document and explain this is a state wide (not state sponsored) ham radio exercise.

#### **20.0 Frequencies and Repeaters**

##### **20.1 County Communications**

Individual counties will conduct their internal communications however they wish; repeaters, simplex, HF or other wise.

##### **20.2 Intra-County Communications**

Communications across county lines will be conducted with Winlink 2000. Counties within a Region will contact their respective DEC to ascertain the Winlink protocol, e.g., VHF Packet, Peer-2-Peer, HF Winmor, HF Peer-to-Peer, etc. See paragraph 15.0 for special addressing considerations.

#### **21.0 Echolink**

On Friday night September 25, 2000L, there will be a MDC Section Echolink SET Net. If you are Echolink capable, dial up the Washington Conference Node (WASH\_DC) Node:6164 and have the following information ready:

21.1 County ECs have ready their Winlink and APRS operator call signs of their survey teams.

21.2 The possible number of teams being deployed.

21.3 Washington Conference Node (WASH\_DC) Node:6164 will be available to us during the SET duration for cross county comms and emergency calls if necessary.

#### **22.0 Gauge Table**

Seventy-nine NOAA Eater Gauged were extracted from the NOAA website shown in the following table header. These are small subset of the complete NOAA list of the MDC Section. The list was used in the 2015 SET and has been updated (some added and others deleted) to the lasted list provided by the website.

Selected Low Water Level Gauges Extracted from  
<https://water.weather.gov/ahps/region.php?state=md>  
 2020 Maryland - DC Section SET

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 Ridgemed 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	Potomca 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		



Selected Low Water Level Gauges Extracted from  
<https://water.weather.gov/ahps/region.php?state=md>  
 2020 Maryland - DC Section SET

District	County	Location	Lat	Lon	Beam Heading	Notes
Cent	PRGE	Collington Branch nr Leeland Rd Upper Marlboro	38 52 06	076 44 45		
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		Not accessible
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		

Selected Low Water Level Gauges Extracted from  
<https://water.weather.gov/ahps/region.php?state=md>  
 2020 Maryland - DC Section SET

District	County	Location	Lat	Lon	Beam Heading	Notes
West	CARR	Morgan Run nr Louisville	39 27 06	076 57 19		
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	Youghiogheny 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						

## 23.0 References:

Should there be a need to inform or place an urgent email to your county EC of neighboring EC, the list in Table 3.

Maryland - DC Emergency Coordinator List and Contact Information Current as of September 1, 2020					
County	4-Ltr Cnty Code	EC Name	Call	Email	Notes
Allegany	ALLE	Lynn DeHart	KB3FN	lwdehart@atlanticbb.net	acting during SET
Anne Arundel	ANAR	Mike Montrose	KA2JAI	mikemontrose@gmail.com	
Baltimore City	BACI	vacant			
Baltimore County	BACO	vacant			
Calvert	CALV	Shawn Donely	N3AE	n3ae@arri.net	
Caroline	CARO	Cathy Jones	KB3TVF	cbjonestf@msn.com	
Carroll	CARR	Larry Solarczyk	WX3F	solarcl1765@gmail.com	
Cecil	CECI	George Remhof	KB3LJB	gremhof@yahoo.com	
Charles	CHAS	Bob Davidson	KB3KOW	kb3kow@yahoo.com	
Dist of Columbia	DC	Jack Gunther	KB3KKY	kb3kky@arri.net	
Dorchester	DORC	vacant			
Frederick	FRED	Mike Myers	K3DO	nutnutmike@gmail.com	
Garrett	GARR	Howard Reynolds	WA3EOQ	wa3eq@gmail.com	
Harford	HARF	Ted Wieworka	W3YR	dtwieworka@gmail.com	
Howard	HOWA	Andy Protigal	N3AWP	awprotigal@gmail.com	
Kent	KENT	vacant			
Montgomery	MONT	Tom Horne	W3TDH	w3tdh@arri.net	
Prince George's	PRGE	Jim Montgomery	WB3KAS	wb3kas@arri.net	
Queen Anne's	QA	vacant			
Somerset	SOME	vacant			
St. Mary's	STMA	Rob Hoyt	N2OMC	robhoyt32@yahoo.com	
Talbot	TALB	Bob Luff	W3GAC	luff.bob@gmail.com	
Washington	WASH	Maurice Eigenbrode	NI2W	ni2w@arri.net	"Butch"
Wicomico	WICO	John Taylor	W3JCT	jctsby@aol.com	
Worcester	WORC	vacant			
Table 3					

List of Abbreviations  
January 02, 2020

ACS	Auxiliary Communications System	JHH-FL	Johns Hopkins Hospital, St. Petersburg, FL
ANAR	Anne Arundel (County)		
ARES	Amateur Radio Emergency Service	JHH-MD	Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore, MD
ARESMAT	ARES Mutual Aid Team		
ARRL	American Radio Relay League	kHz	kilo Hertz
BACI	Baltimore (City)	LRH	Laurel Regional Hospital
BACO	Baltimore (County)	MHZ	Mega Hertz
BHC	Bowie Health Center	MICU	Medical Intensive Care Unit
CALV	Calvert (County)	MMMC	MedStar Montgomery Medical Center
CARR	Carroll (County)	MONT	Montgomery (County)
CHAR	Charles (County)	MSMHC	MedStar Southern Maryland Hospital
CMRG	Central Maryland Repeater Group	NCR	National Capital Region
CTCSS	Continuous Tone Coded Squelch System	NCS	Net Control Station
		NVIS	Near Vertical Incident Skywave
DCH	Doctors Community Hospital	Ops	Operations
EC	Emergency Coordinator	P2P	Peer-to-Peer
EM	Emergency Management	PGC	Prince George's County
EmComm	Emergency Communications	PGCHD	Prince George's County Health Dept.
EOC	Emergency Operations Center	PGHC	Prince George's Hospital Center
FCC	Federal Communications Commission	PIO	Public Information Officer
FRED	Frederick (County)	POC	Point of Contact
Freq	Frequency	PR	Public Relations
FSB	Fire Services Building	PRGE	Prince George's (County)
FWMC	Fort Washington Medical Center	QTH	Location
HARF	Harford (County)	RACES	Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service
HC	Holy Cross		
HCGH	Holy Cross Germantown Hospital	RMS	Radio Messaging System
HCSH	Holy Cross Silver Spring Hospital	RO	Races Officer
HD	Health Department	SET	Simulated Emergency Test
HEROs	Hospital Emergency Radio Operators	SM	Section Manager
HEOC	Hospital Emergency Operations Center	SMS	Short Message Systems
		S.S.	Strategic National Stockpile
HF	High Frequency	S.B.	Single Side Band
HIPAA	Health Insurance, Portability, and Accountability Act	TALB	Talbot (County)
		UHF	Ultra High Frequency
HOWA	Howard (County)	VHF	Very high Frequency
IC	Incident Commander	WDC	Washington, D.C.
ICS	Incident Command System	WinMOR	Winlink Messaging Over Radio
IT	Information Technology	WL2K	Winlink 2000
JCAHO	Joint Commission on Accreditation of Health Care Organizations		