

Winlink Updates from February 2025 Flood-Freeze Emergency

KJ4W

MSUARC March 4, 2025

- The following slide is the text of an e-mail posted on the KyHam Groups.io re-mailer on February 14, 2025, and also to active Kentucky Winlink mail addresses.
- The e-mail is from Bob Stephens WA4CMO, who is retired from Kentucky Emergency Management where he worked as a communications officer. He is an active volunteer now.
- The e-mail requests hams to stand by for any emergency communications needs during this emergency period, and to report any observed emergency situations to the KyEM EOC preferably via Winlink e-mail.

GOVERNOR ANDY BESHEAR HAS DECLARED THAT A STATE OF EMERGENCY EXISTS IN KENTUCKY BEGINNING AT 0800 SATURDAY 15FEB2025 UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE AND THE EOC WILL BE ACTIVATED TO SUPPORT POSSIBLE EMERGENCY OPERATIONS. THIS MESSAGE IS BEING SENT BY BOB STEPHENS WA4CMO.

YOU ARE REQUESTED TO PARTICIPATE

1. THE HAM SHACK IN THE EOC WILL BE OPERATIONAL BEGINNING AT 0800 SATURDAY MORNING.
2. THERE WILL BE NO DIRECTED OR INFORMAL NET MANAGED BY THE EOC
3. THE EOC WILL BE MONITORING 7.228 MHz LSB DURING DAYLIGHT HOURS
4. THE EOC WILL BE MONITORING 3.972.5 MHz LSB DURING NIGHTTIME HOURS
5. THE EOC WILL BE MONITORING 146.55 VHF FM
6. THE EOC WILL BE MONITORING THE SHELBYVILLE WIDE AREA REPEATER SYSTEM ON 444.050 UHF FM
7. WE REQUEST THAT WINLINK BE THE PRIMARY METHOD OF SHARING INFORMATION WITH THE EOC AND EMAIL SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO KY4EOC@GMAIL.COM.
8. STATIONS DESIRING TO PARTICIPATE ARE REQUESTED TO SUBMIT A WINLINK CHECK-IN FORM. THE EOC WILL NOT NORMALLY VERIFY AN INDIVIDUAL WINLINK MESSAGE.
9. WINLINK IS A TREMENDOUS RESOURCE AND MAY BE IMPORTED DIRECTLY INTO WEBEOC SO IT IS AGAIN THE REQUESTED METHOD TO SHARE INFORMATION.
10. REQUEST YOU SUBMIT A "CHECK-IN FORM" AT THE BEGINNING THEN FOLLOW WITH THE "FIELD STATUS REPORT" AS NECESSARY TO REPORT ESF2 INFORMATION.
11. OTHER WINLINK FORMS ARE ACCEPTABLE TO REPORT EMERGENCY INFORMATION.
12. THE HAM SHACK PHONE NUMBER IS: TBA. PLEASE DO NOT CALL UNLESS ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY.
13. PLEASE FORGIVE DUPLICATES AS I AM USING THE AF4Y AND THE KB4KY WINLINK EMAIL ADDRESSES.

BOB STEPHENS
WA4CMO

- Several hams did volunteer to staff the ham radio position in the EOC over that stormy weekend.
- In an After-Action Review posted by KyEM, it was reported that 47 Winlink situation report messages were received, as well as HF and VHF voice messages, mostly from flooding emergencies in eastern Kentucky. I do not know the content, but the AAR said that some “were from critical locations”. KyEM communicators found that Winlink messaging was much more efficient to use than voice messages were for receiving and logging damage reports. Reports using Winlink “Forms” were especially efficient, as those can simply be copy-and-pasted into the WebEOC software that the EOC uses.
- Eastern Kentucky is still dealing with flooding damage recovery. The current death count from this flooding event is 23.

Important Information for Hams to Know:

- The KyEM EOC monitors 7.228 MHz LSB during daylight hours and 3.972.5 MHz LSB during nighttime hours in emergency activations.
- WINLINK is the preferred method of sharing detailed information with the EOC and email should be addressed to KY4EOC@GMAIL.COM.
- Various WINLINK “FORMS” or “TEMPLATES” are used to report emergency information. If you haven’t yet learned how to use a WINLINK Form, you should do so. Relevant forms for this emergency are “LOCAL WEATHER REPORT” and “SEVERE WEATHER REPORT”.
- If you haven’t yet subscribed to the KyHAM remailer on Groups.io, I recommend that you do so. That’s one way that KyEM activation messages are sent to hams.