

MERT



Marion County Emergency Radio Team

COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE

July 2021

MERT's role is focused on supporting County emergency personnel, evacuation shelters and Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT) within Marion County, FL with independent and mobile voice, image and data communications resources.



MERT CERT ARES SKYWARN
JUNE 19th MONTHLY MEETING

- Pledge of Allegiance
- Introductions
- Myers Briggs personality test
- Hurrevac Program
- MCSO Hurricane Preparedness
- MERT Interview
- ICOM 5100 Cross Band Repeater
- GO KIT Demo

The Marion County Emergency Radio Team held its Monthly meeting on June 19th at 10 am at the MCSO Emergency Operations Center located at 692 NW 30th Ave, Ocala, FL. Leon Jurczynsyn (K8ZAG) , MERT Coordinator welcomed 15 members, ARES, CERT & guest attendees.

HURREVAC

HURREVAC (short for Hurricane Evacuation) is a storm tracking and decision support tool. The program combines live feeds of tropical cyclone forecast information with data from various state Hurricane Evacuation Studies (HES) to assist local Emergency Management leaders determine the most prudent evacuation decision time and the potential for significant storm effects such as wind and storm surge. Access limited to Agency and governmental personnel.



The screenshot shows the HURREVAC website interface. At the top, it says "A Storm Tracking and Decision Support Tool for Government Emergency Managers". Below this is a navigation menu with categories like "Program Information", "Support Services", "Learning Resources", and "Outside Links". The main content area is titled "Key Features of HURREVAC" and describes the tool's capabilities, including live feeds of tropical cyclone forecasts and integration with Hurricane Evacuation Studies (HES). A small inset image shows a control room with multiple computer monitors displaying maps and data.

Hurricane Preparedness

With June 1st starting the 2021 Hurricane season, attendee's reviewed the Division of Emergency Management website resource to familiarize themselves on the significant information and resources it contains.

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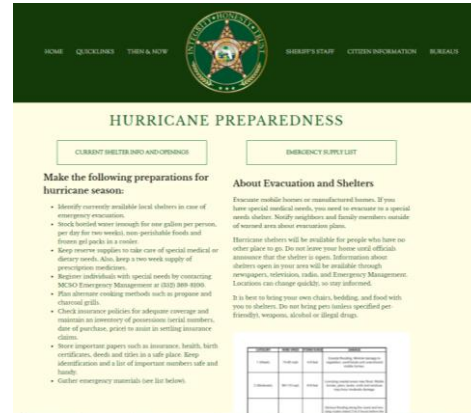


Marion County Emergency Radio Team

Web topics include:

- Making Preparations
- About Evacuation and Shelters
- When "Hurricane Watch" occurs
- When "Hurricane Warning" occurs
- Emergency Materials to have on hand
- Living without Electricity
- Securing your residence

....and many others invaluable for all living in Florida.



Visit: <https://www.marionso.com/hurricane-preparedness>

MERT Video: WHAT IS MARION EMERGENCY RADIO TEAM (MERT)



Sgt. Paul Bloom of the MCSO Div. of Emergency Management Public Affairs interviews Bill Gillespie (KW5BG), MERT Asst. Coordinator. The interview shared details about MERT's year-round preparations in support of the Emergency Operations Center activities supporting Shelters and CERT.

Visit: <https://www.facebook.com/mcsosflorida/videos/what-is-marion-emergency-radio-team-mertthe-mert-program-is-designed-to-provide/816716942592057/>

Cross Band Repeater Operations

This month's Training topic focused on a special feature some dual-band mobile radios have. A common use of the cross band repeat is to extend the range of low-power handheld radio



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operations by using the higher transmit power of a dual-band mobile transceiver to communicate through a distant repeater. The video created by amateur radio operator Hank (K1DOS) featured a widely used Icom ID-5100A dual-band mobile and an ID-51 Icom portable radio w/DStar.

Visit: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UiU6zp635ew>

Ham Radio Go KIT

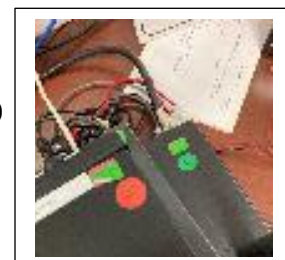


Another amateur radio user has provided an excellent video on a custom designed and built Go KIT he created. David Fernandez (AA1DF) is a member of the Dade Radio Club of Miami. David described in detail his Go KIT and all the key components including dual-band and HF radios, dual battery systems, portable antenna and solar panel charging units. It is very thorough and detailed and worth a look for any amateur looking for ideas on building or upgrading their own Go KIT.

Visit: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7Jc3g0us4JE>

Inventory

An always fun event is our annual inventory check verifying MCSO and MERT hardware. We started in June and will be completed in early July.



[Interested in learning more..... or becoming a MERT member?](https://kg4nxx.com/)

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