

28 February, 2026

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: AAR DHS SHARES/ARS REGION 2- OPERATION BLIZZARD WATCH 2026

DATES: STARTEX: 221900ZFEB2026/ENDEX: 241700ZFEB2026

SUMMARY: A dangerous nor'easter with blizzard conditions is slamming the tri-state area Sunday. New York City and Long Island are under a blizzard warning from Sunday morning until Monday morning, with 18 to 24 inches of snow possible for much of the region. The governors of New York and New Jersey issued states of emergency ahead of the snowstorm, which is also expected to bring wind gusts up to 55 mph. Officials urged residents to stay home and off the roads. Heavy snow, strong winds, and near-whiteout conditions are expected, with the worst impacts from Sunday night through Monday morning. The heaviest snowfall is expected between 10 p.m. Sunday and 10 a.m. Monday, with potential bursts of 2 to 3 inches per hour. Potential power outages are expected.

In coordination with DHS SHARES Region 2 Coordinator Steve Sykes/NNA2DK, we issued **EXORD SR2-BLIZZARD WATCH-002-FEB-2026** requesting voluntary activation of all statewide NY/NJ SHARES REGION 2 HF radio stations in support of OPERATION BLIZZARD WATCH 2026.

In coordination with established ARS: Amateur Radio Service Region 2 NY/NJ ARES/RACES POC's, we issued **EXORD ARS2-BLIZZARD WATCH-002-FEB-2026** to facilitate voluntary ARS activation of all statewide NY/NJ ARS Region 2 stations in support of OPERATION BLIZZARD WATCH 2026.

LOCATIONS: Statewide DHS SHARES and ARS Region 2 New York/New Jersey

1. What was supposed to happen:

All NY/NJ Region 2 SHARES/ARS stations are requested to voluntarily assist our SHARES Region 2 CSO HF Interoperability Network and send at least one (1) CSM: County Status Message for your respective NY/NJ county per 24-hour period using the WINLINK RMS GATEWAY system to Albany JFHQ-JOC station NNA2CR@WINLINK.ORG using the embedded "CSM County Status" form located in the WINLINK Template and Forms Manager under NY and NJ State Forms. Report "Real World" information and indicate "SHARES REGION 2 BLIZZARD WATCH FEB 2026" for LINE-1 INCIDENT of your CSM. Also ensure to use LINE-19 REMARKS of your CSM for any additional information.

Alternatively, DHS SHARES Region 2 stations may also utilize our SHARES Region 2 HF Interoperability Network for direct connectivity to JFHQ-JOC station NNA2CR to pass your CSM traffic securely with VARA HF Chat.

2. What actually happened:

Both the ARS and DHS SHARES Region 2 CSO: Civil Support Operations community effectively and proficiently exercised the WINLINK Radio Email System as requested post EXORD distribution. Stations expediently passed CSM: County Status Message traffic for the duration of the activation to JFHQ-JOC SHARES station NNA2CR in Albany, NY. Alternatively, DHS SHARES Region 2 stations also utilized our established 24/7 operational HF Interoperability Network to establish direct secure connectivity with JFHQ-JOC station NNA2CR to pass CSM traffic via VARA HF Chat.

3. What went well:

Impromptu planning and coordination between both Region 2 ARS ARES/RACES and DHS SHARES to expeditiously disseminate EXORD documents and solicit voluntary participation in the wake of an impending "Real World" CSO event.

Employing use of the WINLINK Radio Email System to collect CSM traffic from the Region 2 ARS and SHARES CSO community.

The use of digital radio waveform VARA HF Chat offers continued proof of capability as a viable means of sending secure 256-bit AES encrypted digital message radio traffic over statewide NY/NJ SHARES HF radio links. This SHARES Region 2 HF Interoperability Network is active 24/7 for impromptu "Real Time" training and "Real World" CSO operations. Both JFHQ-JOC station NNA2CR and NYS EOC station WGY942 in Albany are active on this CSO network.

4. What needs improvement:

A collective effort is in progress to invigorate New Jersey Region 2 DHS SHARES capability and establish direct connectivity between both New Jersey and New York State EOC's utilizing our SHARES Region 2 HF Interoperability Network. In the absence of an established collection point, New Jersey currently sends all SHARES CSO radio message traffic to JFHQ-JOC station NNA2CR in Albany. Ideally, NJ State EOC should also be operating under the umbrella of the DHS SHARES HF Radio Program and then integrated into our existing HF interoperability network. The DHS SHARES HF Radio Program facilitates a Common Operating Picture and Continuity of Operations for all OGA's in support of our CSO Mission as part of PACE Planning. JFHQ-JOC SHARES Station NNA2CR in Albany, NY is a repository station for collecting all "Real World" and "Real Time" NYS CSO radio message traffic for file, review and action with Continuity of Operations to NYS DHSES EOC Station WGY942 also in Albany, NY.

5. Lessons learned:

This was a collective effort of all Region 2 NY/NJ CSO OGA's: Other Government Agencies and proof of capability demonstrating interoperability in support of our CSO: Civil Support Operations mission. The CSM: County Status Message is the most effective method to assess the basic health and welfare status and functionality of a state county for local and/or state EOC/OEM emergency prioritization. This exercise was a demonstration of Continuity of Operations in support of CSO Interoperability between multiple OGA's and proof of capability that we can work together to bridge the inherent gaps of emergency radio communications. The ARS has proven to be a viable link to bridge this gap. The ARS is the backbone of "Real Time" information in the case of a "Real World" CSO event. The ARS is an invaluable CSO resource on a national level and that cannot be understated or overlooked.

6. **Participants:** Consolidated CSM traffic sent to NYS JFHQ-JOC NNA2CR

NY TALLY: TWENTY (20) NY ARS/SHARES CSM County Status Messages

N2QFD: NY COUNTY: CHEMUNG/TOWN: ELMIRA
KD2GRS: NY COUNTY: NASSAU/TOWN: FLORAL PARK
N2NIS: NY COUNTY: NASSAU/TOWN: MASSAPEQUA
KC2WI: NY COUNTY: HAMILTON/TOWN: LAKE PLEASANT
K2ALS: NY COUNTY: FULTON/TOWN: JOHNSTOWN
KD2RJP: NY COUNTY: CLINTON/TOWN: PLATTSBURGH
W2MIT: NY COUNTY: NASSAU/TOWN: OCEANSIDE
WA2YYL: NY COUNTY: QUEENS/TOWN: LITTLE NECK
KD2DO: NY COUNTY: MONROE/TOWN: FAIRPORT
KD2PWD: NY COUNTY: JEFFERSON/TOWN: LERAY
N2GOP: NY COUNTY: ROCKLAND/TOWN: VALLEY COTTAGE
W2LGB: NY COUNTY: ROCKLAND/TOWN: THIELLS
KE2I: NY COUNTY: DUTCHESS/TOWN: PLEASANT VALLEY
NNA2AO: NY COUNTY: SUFFOLK/TOWN: BROOKHAVEN
NNA2AY: NY COUNTY: ONONDAGA/TOWN: CAMILLUS
NNA2BF: NY COUNTY: NASSAU/TOWN: OYSTER BAY
NNA2BN: NY COUNTY: JEFFERSON/TOWN: CHAMPION
NNA2BK: NY COUNTY: ROCKLAND/TOWN: WESLEY HILLS
NNA2AX: NY COUNTY: ORANGE/TOWN: MONROE
NNA2AC: NY COUNTY: HAMILTON/TOWN: LAKE PLEASANT

NJ TALLY: ELEVEN (11) NJ ARS/SHARES CSM County Status Messages

KD2JGO: NJ COUNTY: HUDSON/TOWN: BAYONNE
K2EFG: NJ COUNTY: BERGEN/TOWN: FORT LEE
K2OFC: NJ COUNTY: BERGEN/TOWN: NORTH ARLINGTON
WB2ALJ: NY COUNTY: OCEAN/TOWN: JACKSON
N2IAG: NJ COUNTY: PASSAIC/TOWN: WAYNE TOWNSHIP
K2LAX: NJ COUNTY: BERGEN/TOWN: OAKLAND
N2JLF: NJ COUNTY: BERGEN/TOWN: LITTLE FERRY
KD2YEW: NJ COUNTY: PASSAIC/TOWN: POMPTON LAKES
N2XW: NJ COUNTY: OCEAN/TOWN: MANAHAWKIN
K2EXX: NJ COUNTY: ESSEX/TOWN: NORTH CALDWELL
NNA2HK: NY COUNTY: MORRIS/TOWN: MORRIS TOWN

7. **POC** for this memorandum is the undersigned at HF-EmComm@proton.me

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