

Krishna Floods – 2009- Ham volunteers provide emergency communication

By Ms. S. Yamini, VU2YAM

The raging waters of River Krishna inundated over 8000 Sq.mtrs of land including two major towns and hundreds of villages in the districts of Kurnool, Mahaboobnagar,



Guntur, Nalgonda and Krishna. The unprecedented rainfall recorded in the catchment areas of river Krishna on October 2, 2009 rushed into the all the dams and water bodies filling them beyond the maximum possible floods levels. Flood gates at all the dams/barrages were opened to maximum level for water to reach the sea, enroute the water inundated low laying areas, beaching several earth bunds causing flood waters to enter villages leaving millions of people homeless.



Houses completely under water in Edurumondi

People made National High Way as their temporary shelters.

NIAR HQ activated its station and remained in complete readiness to mobilise 5 amateur radio

emergency communication stations and volunteers. The Ham volunteers across the state were also alerted. In response to the alert message, over 15 hams and volunteers including OM Mohan, VU2MYH, YL Bhanu, VU2BL, YL Lissy, VU3LMS were on standby at NIAR HQ, monitoring the situation, collecting reports from other NGO agencies working in the flood affected area.



OM Meeravali, SWL and VU2YAM

The Government of Andhra Pradesh was also informed about our preparedness and willingness to provide instant communications from any remote location as may be required by them.

However, learning through the print and electronic media on the seriousness of impending



VU2JOS, VU2YAM, and SWLs

disaster and need for communications in the low lying areas of Krishna district, Ham team led by Ms. S. Yamini, VU2YAM along with other members Mr. Jose Jacob, VU2JOS, Mr. Meeravali, Mr. A.Chakravarthy were immediately rushed to Avanigadda before the rail/road communication between Hyderabad and Vijayawada was temporarily cut off.



VU2YAM from a free medical camp organized by an NGO at the rehabilitation centre

On the 6th October, 2009, the amateur radio station was set up at Government Degree College to assist Disaster Management agencies conducting relief activity in the region. Ham volunteers specially, Ms. S. Yamini, VU2YAM being a YL operator, courageously visited many remote villages inundated by flood waters near Nagayalanka, Edurumondi, Krishna Puram, Repalle, Jinka Palem and other surrounding areas with mobile VHF communication facility to support their communication needs where even dead bodies were found.

The team organized an awareness program at Government Degree College to the students of NCC and local people. The awareness program was published in the print media like Eenadu and Andhra Jyothi Daily News Papers. Mr. Suri, VU2MY, Chairman, NIAR later visited the flood hit areas and interacted with Ham volunteers providing communications in Avanigadda. NIAR and ham volunteers received immense



VU2YAM & OM Pulendra, I-News Reporter



OM Suri, VU2MY, Chairman, NIAR

support from members of print and electronic media particularly Mr. Pulendra from I-News and his team in mobilizing our teams to severely flood effected locations as there were restrictions on the movement of people to in accessible areas. The teams returned to Hyderabad on 10th October soon after the flood waters receded to below danger levels and normal telecommunications were operational. Many NGO's, and other voluntary organizations Ham News designed by S. Yamini, VU2YAM Special Edition OCT 09 - 2 -

helped the people by providing food, medical support etc., Mr. Venkanna, SWL from tenali visited ham station in Avanigadda. We thank all the Ham volunteers, the Government of Andhra Pradesh and members of Print and Electronic media for their support to our activity.

Demonstrations / Visits

8 students from Glendale Academy, Hyderabad visited NIAR on 7th October 2009. Demonstration on amateur radio technology were shown to the students.

Extension Education Institute, Hyderabad

25 members from Extension Education Institute, Rajendra Nagar, Hyderabad visited NIAR on 21st October 2009. Demonstration of amateur radio technologies and a power point presentation was shown to the participants of Extension Education Institute by Mr. S. Ram Mohan, VU2MYH and Ms. S. Yamini, VU2YAM.



S. Yamini, VU2YAM giving demo to the participants



Amateur Radio demonstration by Mr. MADHAVAN, VU2GHX, NIAR Coordinator

A lecture on Amateur Radio for Disaster Management in the Training Program on "Safety and Disaster Management" on 22nd October 2009 at Tamil Nadu Electricity Board.

ASOL exam conducted at KV-2, Uppal

Amateur Station Operators Licence examination was conducted at Kendriya Vidhyalaya-2, Uppal on 27th October 2009. Over 40 students have appeared for the exam from NIAR and school. Results are yet to be released.

Awards & Rewards



1. **The** members of NIAR operated in the Lions contest with the special callsign AT60MY in 2008 and received a certificate from the International Association of Lions Club.
2. OM Jose Jacob, VU2JOS received award issued by IARU "Worked All Continents" during the 2008 expedition "VU7SJ" in Agatti Island, Lakshadweep.

