

LaPorte County ARES

Damage Assessment Radiogram Fact Sheet

Promulgation Statement

This plan is hereby approved and promulgated effective 25 September 2025.

Damage Assessment Radiogram Fact Sheet

UPDATE: Moved [REPORTER] to the radiograms signature. This makes the format more compliant with the radiogram standard.

Purpose:

Provide a simple radiogram-compatible format for post-storm damage reports.

Radiogram Template:

[NR] [Precedence] [HX] [CS of Origin] [Check] [Place of Origin] [HHMM] [MMM DD]

[Addressee (If message stays local just a name & callsign is enough)]

BT

DA [Location] [Damage Type] [Severity] [Immediate Needs]

BT

[Reporter]

AR

Template Guide:

NR: “NUMBER” You “invent” this. Normally, An incrementing count of every radiogram you have originated. Hams often reset this to a “1” at the beginning of each month or year.

Precedence: One of four codes, indicating the urgency of the message.

- Emergency (spell out on CW or digital modes),
- Priority (P), Welfare (W), Routine (R).

HX: Is the *Handling Instructions*. We won’t use them for this exercise.

CS of Origin: The callsign of the ham who creates the message.

Check: The *check* is the count of groups (word or numbers) in the address and body of the message.

Place of Origin: The town the orinating ham can be contacted at.

HHMM: The time (24hr format) the message was created.

MMM DD: the abbreviated month and day the message was created.

DA: Marks message as Damage Assessment

Location: See Keywords Guide

Damage Type: See Keywords Guide

Severity: See Keywords Guide

Immediate Needs: See Keywords Guide

Reporter: Name Callsign

Keywords Guide

Damage Type Keywords

- POWER OUT, PHONE OUT, WATER OUT, GAS LEAK, COMMS DOWN
- ROAD BLOCKED, BRIDGE DOWN, RAIL DAMAGED, AIRPORT CLOSED
- HOUSE DAMAGE, ROOF OFF, WALL COLLAPSE, BUILDING DESTROYED
- FLOODING, TREE DOWN, MUDSLIDE, DEBRIS FIELD, FIRE



Severity Keywords

Keyword	Description
MINOR	cosmetic, passable, minor outage
MODERATE	functional but impaired
MAJOR	serious disruption, unsafe
DESTROYED	total failure or collapse



Immediate Needs Keywords

Keyword	Description
RESCUE	trapped persons
MEDICAL	injuries, need EMS
SHELTER	displaced, no safe housing
NONE	no immediate needs identified



Location Shortcuts

- STREET/CROSS – e.g., “US421 AND 20”
- LANDMARK – e.g., “COUNTY COURTHOUSE”
- GPS – e.g., “41.7N 86.9W”

Tips:

- BT pronounced break.
- Keep each radiogram under 25 words.
 - This is *not* a hard stop, just a recommendation to keep messages transmittable fast.
- Stick to keywords instead of narrative.

Example Radiograms:

Example A

12 R KD9LWR 16 MICITY IN 2312Z OCT 11

Allen AC9EB

BT

DA US421 AT COUNTY LINE

BRIDGE DOWN MAJOR BLOCKAGE NO

RESCUE NEEDED

BT

JACOB KD9LWR

AR

Example B

13 R KD9LWR 15 MICITY IN 1105Z OCT 11

LAPORTE COUNTY EOC

BT

DA 5TH AND FRANKLIN TWO

HOMES ROOF DAMAGE MODERATE NO

MEDICAL

BT

JACOB KD9LWR

AR