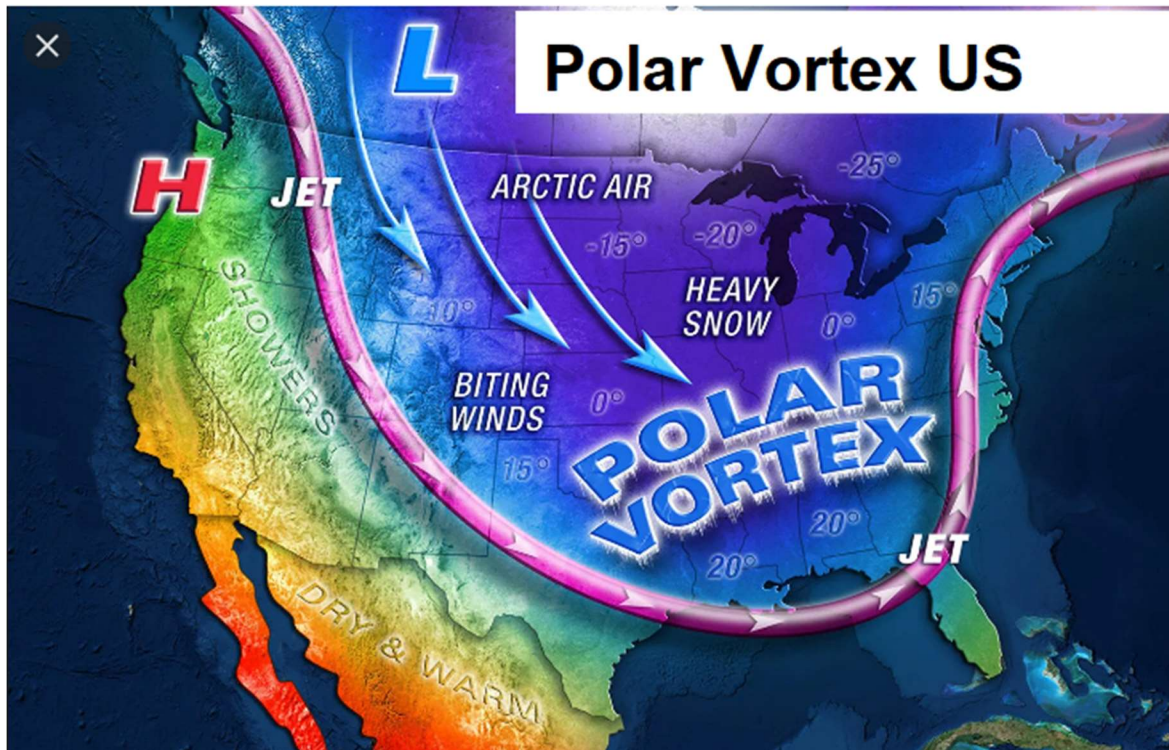


THIS IS A DRILL Weather Briefing
For Red Cross EmComm Fall Radio Drill



Approximately two weeks ago, an extremely unusual event occurred in much of the western hemisphere. A massive shift in the Jet stream caused by unusual tropical cyclone activity in the western Pacific has caused the jet stream over North America to be extremely affected with Polar Vortex activity pushing frigid air southward into the lower 48.

The storm track has been shifted to extremes and has been oscillating wildly in a situation that has not been seen since weather records have been kept.

A massive bomb cyclone has affected the northeast Division from ME to the Mid Atlantic this past week. Storm with pressures down to 949mb (28.02") blasted the east coast. 20-36" of snow has fallen in areas just west of the I-95 corridor paralyzing parts of ME, NH, VT, MA, RI, CT, NY, NJ, MD, and VA. Travel is almost impossible in many areas. Coastal New England had wind gusts to 100mph with destructive coastal flooding destroying more than 2,000 structures.

The central Atlantic Division has seen heavy ice accretion from the storm that moved up the coast in addition to the snow near the coast. Travel is extremely difficult, with most of the roadways being unusable.

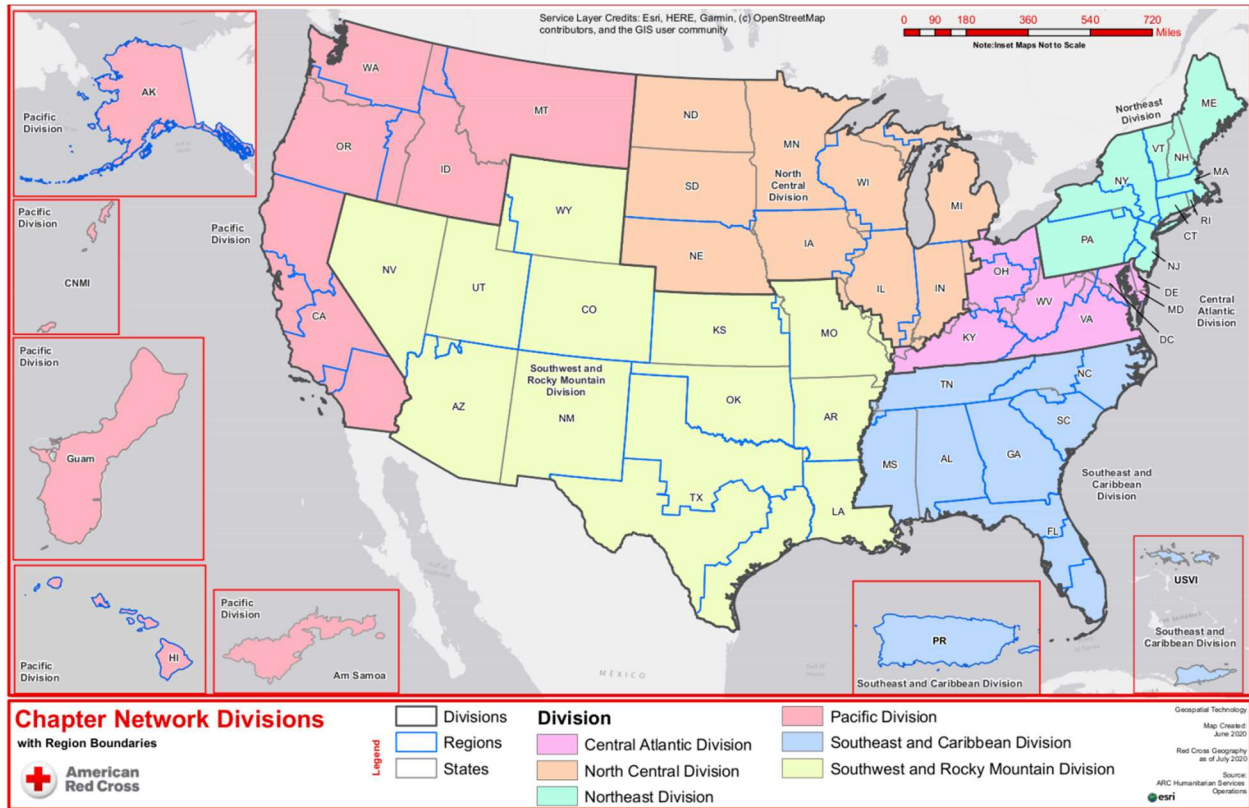
In the southeast and Caribbean Division states, flooding from the system moving up the coast has affected the Gulf States along with the Carolinas and Florida. The rapidly deepening system also spawned several tornadoes in MS and AL. Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands have seen extensive flooding as the cold front passed through the area.



Ultra cold has invaded much of the lower 48 including the North Central Division. Chicago has seen a low temperature of -39F which is virtually unheard of in weather records. The northern tier states to Texas have seen record cold with the power grids being taxed to the limit. Small ripples of low pressure have added snowfall to the parts of the Southwest and Rocky Mountain Division along with extreme cold.

In the Pacific Division, an intense storm in the Northwest states has brought flooding rain, snow and damaging winds to Washington and Oregon. California has seen some ripples of low pressure push into the fire stricken areas causing mudslides in the fire burn zones. Hawaii has

been getting very strong winds and coastal flooding as the Jetstream oscillation has thrown the normally tranquil areas into a very difficult situation.



3 day forecast:

Northeast Division

Continued very cold with snow squalls at times, highs in the 20s and lows near zero. A second east coast storm may be forming that could affect the division later in the forecast period.

Southeast and Caribbean Division

It will be continuing to be very cold with highs in the 30s and lows in the 20s. Puerto Rico will be colder than normal with continued heavy rain and temperatures in the 50s.

Central Atlantic Division

It will remain very cold with highs near 25 and lows in the teens. Winds gusting near 40-50mph. Persistent snow shower activity for the next several days.

North Central Division

Extreme record cold with highs in the minus teens with lows in minus 25 range. Cold northwest winds near 50mph bringing dangerous wind chills.

Southwest and Rocky Mountain Division

Very cold conditions will persist with lows on the 20s and highs near 30. Ripples of low pressure could bring snow or ice to parts of the division including north Texas.

Pacific Division

Strong winds near 60mph in the Pacific NW with low pressure areas coming ashore as the jet stream oscillates. Highs will be in the 30s and lows in the 20s. In California, low pressure systems will bring continued showers through much of the state. Highs will be in the 50s will lows in the 40s, except near San Diego where highs will be near 60. Hawaii will see strong winds near 55mph with highs in the 60s and lows in the 50s.