

Marine Safety Unit Huntington

RRT 3 Fall Meeting

Western Rivers Flood Punt Hurricane Deployments

November 2017





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Western Rivers Flood Punts (WRFP)

United States
Coast Guard



- Overview of WRFP program
- Assets & information
- Capabilities
- Restrictions
- 2017 deployments
- Lessons learned
- Questions



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Western Rivers Flood Punts (WRFP)

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- U. S. Coast Guard District Eight Non-Standard Asset
- Western Rivers Flood Punt (WRFP) for Flooding Response (CGD8INST 3010.2D)



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WRFP Assets & Information




- Self Contained Package
 - Team leader + 6 crew
 - Three 16' Jon boats
 - Communications
 - Fuel/generator/clearing equip
- Liaison/support staff
- Deployments
 - Local flooding
 - Hurricane response
- Activation

WESTERN RIVERS FLOOD PUNT PACKAGES

PACKAGE DESCRIPTION

The Western Rivers Flood Punt (WRFP) is a mobile field package ideal for executing disaster relief operations in slow moving flooded urban and remote shallow water areas. WRFP crews assist other agencies in disaster response operations, including search and rescue, and transport of rescue teams and vital supplies to victims in remote flood-affected areas. Once activated, the WRFP is normally assigned to a Emergency Operations Center (EOC) or Incident Commander (IC) for tasking. The WRFP will remain assigned to the EOC/IC as long as ongoing operations are within the capabilities of the WRFP. The WRFP package is transportable via a standard 3/4 ton pickup truck capable of towing 10,000 lbs.



FEATURES

ACTIVATION/USE

Flood Punts (3)	
Length:	16 feet 3 inches
Beam:	67 inches
Draft:	12 inches
Displacement:	500 pounds
Max Speed:	15 knots
Max Capacity:	4-6 people

Crew (8-10)



- Liaison (1)
- Team Leader (1)
- Operators/Crewman (6)
- Logistics Support: SK, YN, HS (0-2)

Characteristics/Outfitting:

- Slow water response
- Daylight operations only
- Heavy duty, transportable over the road
- Self contained package of 3 flood punts per trailer
- Support equipment includes chain saws, power generating unit, flood lights, life jackets, basic first aid supplies

Western Rivers Flood Punt (WRFP) packages are located in Huntington, WV and Paducah, KY on the Ohio River; Peoria, IL on the Illinois River; and St Paul, MN, St. Louis, MO, and Memphis, TN on the Mississippi River. WRFP activation requests should be sent to the U.S. Coast Guard District Eight Command Center at (504) 589-6225. Packages are *most* beneficial when strategically pre-positioned for anticipated flooding, so early notification for pre-deployment planning, preparation, and travel is advised.

Specific guidelines and details on the use of WRFPs for flooding response are located in Eight District Instruction (CGD8INST 3010.2D) *Western Rivers Flood Punt (WRFP) for Flooding Response* available on the Coast Guard District Eight CGPortal page.

U.S. COAST GUARD
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WRFP Capabilities

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- WRFP teams assigned to EOC/ICP
- Mass evacuations
- Systematic clearing of affected areas
- Self supporting



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WRFP Restrictions

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- Night operations
- Navigational waters
- Law enforcement
- Environmental
 - Wind < 20 Knots
 - Current < 3 Knots



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2017 WRFPP Responses



- Deployed 5 times for ~35 days
- Mississippi River flood response
 - Berming & de-watering ops in St. Mary, MO; prevented isolation of 300+ people & regional hospital
 - Worked w/vet to locate & rescue 5 horses
- Hurricanes Harvey/Irma/Nate responses
 - Rescued over +600 ppl/300 pets
 - Provided training/comms support





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2017 Hurricane Season

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What worked -

- Ability to work independently of other CG ops
- Self contained package/unit
 - Radios
 - Fuel
- Mobility



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What didn't work as well -

- Tasking for SAR/evacuation
- Liaison position
- Travel times
- Demobilization
- Decontamination
- Media
- Weight of punt for overland transport



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Questions?





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Western Rivers Flood Punt Package

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- 16' Jon boat with Honda 20 HP outboard
- Deployable trailer with 3 VSL
- Comms suite
- Clearing equipment, generators, etc.



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