

Notes on the ETO July 14, 2022 Winlink Thursday exercise

First, the good news!

We received 586 messages from 545 participants (some folks sent more than one message). Of the messages received, 529 were the expected Severe Weather messages, Here's a breakdown of the other message types:

- rejects, count: 44
- check_in, count: 5
- wx_local, count: 5
- hospital_bed, count: 1
- eto_check_in, count: 1
- field_situation_23, count: 1

Of the 44 rejected message

- 25 were from the same location. For this exercise, we only look at the last message sent
- 19 messages were in a format that wasn't recognized.

I looked at those 19 messages; 14 had subjects that indicated that they were indeed Severe Weather messages, but didn't have the associated XML form data attached. I'll be sending out a Winlink message to those participants to try to understand why not.

On the other hand, this is the first exercise in 2022 where I haven't had to manually remove a "Pin from the Map" because someone forgot to put the necessary minus sign in front of their longitudes. So, well done to all for that.

Here's [a link to our map by clearinghouse.](#)

This exercise was graded. Here's the grading criteria that were used:

- 40 points for attaching an image
- 40 points for a resized image
- 2 points each for each "severe weather" field not left blank!

And here's the grading results:

100: 453 (85.63%)
96: 36 (6.81%)
94: 6 (1.13%)
92: 1 (0.19%)
90: 2 (0.38%)
82: 3 (0.57%)
80: 5 (0.95%)

58: 13 (2.46%)
56: 3 (0.57%)
52: 1 (0.19%)
40: 1 (0.19%)
18: 2 (0.38%)
16: 1 (0.19%)
14: 1 (0.19%)
0: 1 (0.19%)

That is, 85% sent in a resized image and made sure that the 10 severe weather fields weren't blank. Alas, I myself failed to set all 10 fields, so I didn't earn the "100% - perfect score".

We had 18 participants who sent in images that were too big. That's a bit disappointing because our instructions explicitly stated to crop and resize the image to 5 KB. Folks, the Winlink Express client provides an excellent tool to quickly and easily resize images. The instructions even provided a [link](#) to a YouTube video demonstrating how to use the tool. I'll be sending out a follow up Winlink message to those participants to remind them about that built in tool.

What's surprising to me is that we also received 19 images from folks that were 3 KB or smaller. Also, we received 19 images where either the width or height was 64 pixels or less. I appreciate the desire to send small files, but at some point, the file becomes too small to be usable. I'll be sending out Winlink messages to those 34 participants to try to learn what tools, if any, they used to make such a small file.

I made [a short video](#) showing how I completed the exercise; I'd strongly recommend all who didn't get a perfect score to watch.

I put together a [montage](#) of all the images submitted. For fun, you might want to find your own image.



