

**Memorandum of Understanding
Between the North Carolina Division of Emergency Management
and the North Carolina Section of the
American Radio Relay League**

INTRODUCTION

The State of North Carolina acknowledges the long-standing service relationship between the North Carolina State Division of Emergency Management (NCEM) and the American Radio Relay League (ARRL). It is further noted with gratitude and appreciation that the ARRL's North Carolina Section of the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) has served the State in times of emergency and that individual service has always been provided as a totally voluntary donation during periods of great need, by the individual radio amateur with no remuneration asked or considered.

As it is important for government to recognize the value and utilize the services of efficient and enterprising private volunteer organizations, ARRL and NCEM agree to work closely together as set forth below.

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this document is to state the terms of a mutual agreement (memorandum of understanding) between the North Carolina Division of Emergency Management and the American Radio Relay League's North Carolina Section of ARES. This document will serve as a framework within which volunteer personnel of the ARRL may coordinate their services, facilities, and equipment with NCEM in support of statewide and local emergency communications functions. It is intended, through joint coordination and exercise of the resources of ARRL, Federal, State and local governments, to enhance the statewide posture of emergency communications readiness for any conceivable emergency.

1. RECOGNITION

The North Carolina Division of Emergency Management recognizes that the ARRL is the principal organization representing the interests of more than 10,000 North Carolina radio amateurs, and because of its organized emergency communications capability can be of valuable assistance in providing critical and essential communications during emergencies and disasters when normal lines of communications are disrupted.

The American Radio Relay League North Carolina Section recognizes NCEM as the agency chartered as the central point of contact within North Carolina State

government for a wide range of emergency management activities in both peace and war time. NCEM is dedicated to working closely with all the members of the emergency management community to achieve a realistic state of preparedness and an increased capacity to respond to emergencies of all types.

III. ORGANIZATION OF THE AMERICAN RADIO RELAY LEAGUE

The American Radio Relay League is a noncommercial membership association of Radio Amateurs, organized for the promotion of interest in Amateur Radio communication and experimentation, for the establishment of networks to provide communications in the event of disasters or other emergencies, for the advancement of the radio art and of the public welfare, for the representation of the radio amateur in legislative matters, and for the maintenance of fraternalism and high standard of conduct. A primary responsibility of the Amateur Radio Service, as established by the Federal Communications Commission's Rules and Regulations (47 CFR Part 97) is the rendering of public service communications for the general public, particularly in times of emergency when normal communications are not available. Using Amateur Radio operators in the amateur frequency bands, the ARRL has been serving the general public, both directly and through government and relief agencies, for more than fifty years. To that end, the League organized the Amateur Radio Emergency Service, and created the National Traffic System (NTS).

The League's Field Organization covers the United States, including U.S. possessions and Puerto Rico. The Field Organization is administered under an elected Section Manager in each of the 73 ARRL "sections", including the North Carolina section. The Section manager appoints a Section Emergency Coordinator (EC), who, along with district and county emergency coordinators directs ARES/emergency communications preparedness activities in the section. In North Carolina, the Emergency Coordinator (EC) for NCEM is the primary contact with the organization.

IV. RADIO AMATEUR CIVIL EMERGENCY SERVICE (RACES)

RACES is the part of the Amateur Radio Service that provides radio communications to local or State civil preparedness agencies during periods of local, regional, or national civil emergencies. All of the authorized frequencies and emissions allocated to the Amateur Radio Service are also available to RACES on a shared basis. In the event that the President invokes his War Emergency powers, RACES operators using specially authorized frequencies would be the only Amateur Radio operators permitted on the air. In North Carolina, every member of the Amateur Radio Emergency Service is considered a member of RACES should this become necessary. The emergency communications of those Amateur Radio operators would then be directed by the Director of Emergency Management, the ARRL Section Manager, and assistant

section managers, and the Emergency Coordinator for NCEM as necessary for the public interest.

V. METHOD OF COOPERATION

In order that communications resources of the ARRL section may be coordinated and utilized to the fullest advantage during disasters and emergencies, and to the extent permitted or required by law and regulation, NCEM and the ARRL have agreed to the following:

- A. For state-level liaison between ARRL/ARES and NCEM, the points of contact are:

ARRL/ARES Section Manager/EC for NCEM Raleigh

NCEM Communications Center Manager, and/or his/her designee
- B. For Branch -level liaison between ARES and NCEM, the points of contact are:

ARRL/ARES District Emergency Coordinator

NCEM Branch Manager, and/or his/her designee,

Note that ARRL's districts and NCEM's Branches are coterminous.
- C. For county-level liaison between ARES and EM, the points of contact are:

ARRL/ARES County Emergency Coordinators,

Local County Emergency Management Coordinators
- D. NCEM, though its Branch Offices, will encourage county emergency management officials to interact with ARES emergency coordinators and other appropriate ARES Section officials, in an effort to establish cooperative relationships with ARES volunteers.
- E. NCEM and ARES will encourage the development of operating plans within the counties such that the communications services, equipment and facilities of the Amateur Radio Service may be suitably utilized.

F. NCEM and ARES will distribute copies of this agreement through channels to emergency management Branch Offices, county emergency management agencies, and ARRL field organization officials respectively.

G. It is formally agreed and accepted that ARES will be provided a position on the State Emergency Response Team (SERT) in the Division of Emergency Management. The State agrees to make available communications facilities, special passes, and official access to service areas, as appropriate to each emergency which ARES agrees to support. It is understood that ARES has no binding hold nor sway over its volunteer workers and as such can respond only to the extent expressed by its membership.

This Agreement will be reviewed annually and may be amended at that time as agreed to by the signatories.

APPROVAL

Dr. Kenneth B. Taylor
Director, NC Division
of Emergency Management

John Covington
N.C. Section Manager for the
Amateur Radio Relay League

Date:_____

Date:_____