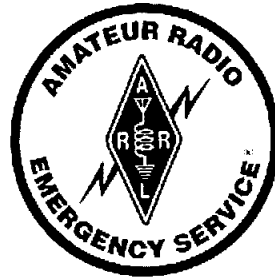


Memorandum of Understanding



Wise County Office of Emergency Management

And

Wise County Amateur Radio Emergency Service

I. INTRODUCTION

The Wise County Office of Emergency Management is responsible for designing and implementing mitigation programs, coordinating emergency response operations during incidents and disasters, and carrying out recovery activities in the aftermath of a disaster.

The Amateur Radio Service is authorized under Part 97 of the Federal Communications Commission's rules as a "voluntary non-commercial communication service, particularly with respect to providing emergency communications." The American Radio Relay League (ARRL) facilitates emergency communications through its Field Organization in general and the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) in particular. Amateurs are licensed by the Federal Communication Commission (FCC) after passing a written examination on their knowledge of telecommunication and technical skills in the operation of radio equipment.

II. AUTHORITY

Title 47 U.S.C. 151, 145(I); Chapter 1, Part 97, Subpart A, Sections 97.1, 97.89, 97.91, 97.107 and Subpart F (all); Federal Communications Commission Rules and Regulations, Amateur Radio Service.

III. PURPOSE AND SCOPE

A. Purpose

The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is to provide an understanding, by the Wise County Office of Emergency Management, for the authorization and mobilization of volunteer amateur radio operators when needed for;

1. Intercommunications among county, private, and public service organizations.
2. Additional public service communication.
3. Health and welfare communications inside the state and most anywhere in the world.

A secondary purpose of ARES is to provide non-emergency communications for city and county agencies and services or other qualified organizations at the discretion of the ARES officer.

B. Scope

This document is meant to establish standardized procedures for the activation and responsibilities between Wise County Office of Emergency Management (WCOEM) and the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) group.

IV. ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

During times of emergencies or disasters, Wise County OEM will coordinate with the three Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) dispatch centers operated by the Wise Co Sherriff's Office, City of Decatur, and City of Bridgeport. These primary PSAPs are responsible for handling the public safety communications in their respective jurisdictions.

When local resources have been overwhelmed or are in need of additional communication resources, Wise County OEM may request help from voluntary communicators. The Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) consists of licensed amateurs who have voluntarily registered their qualifications and equipment, with their local ARES leadership, for communications duty in the public service.

When ARES is requested by Wise County OEM, they will operate in support of Wise County under the direction of the ARES Emergency Coordinator (EC). ARES members will provide needed communications as determined by WCOEM. Communication responsibilities may be in direct support of or supplemental to public safety communications.

V. RESPONSIBILITIES

A. Emergency Management Coordinator

The Wise County Emergency Management Coordinator is responsible for the activation request, objective identification, and deactivation of the ARES group.

B. ARES Emergency Coordinator

The Wise County ARES Emergency Coordinator, or his designee, will act as a liaison and is responsible for the assignment of duties and safety of environment for assigned ARES personnel.

C. ARES Member

ARES members are under the direction of and report to the Wise County ARES Emergency Coordinator or his designee while working in the support of Wise County OEM.

VI. Method of Cooperation

In order that the emergency communications of ARES be coordinated and utilized to the fullest advantage during disasters, Wise County ARES and the Wise County OEM agree to the following:

A. Wise County Office of Emergency Management

Through its leadership, Wise County ARES will establish a regular liaison with Wise County OEM. The liaison will provide cooperation and direct operational assistance with regard to emergency communications planning, and the coordination of amateur radio communications personnel, equipment and/or facilities for relief operations.

Wise County OEM welcomes the cooperation and assistance of Wise County ARES, to extend emergency communications coordination and planning, into the jurisdiction of Wise County. However, ARES members are not county employees and do not have authority over county decisions. They are a conduit for information should the need for emergency communication arise.

Wise County and the OEM will be urged to further the cooperative effort, by requesting Wise County ARES personnel serve as disaster volunteers for emergency communications. Such personnel will be expected to report to the ARES Emergency Coordinator (EC) of said jurisdiction.

Wise County OEM will request representation from the local ARES organization for input and discussion with regard to disaster preparedness with emergency communications. The Wise County OEM will recommend local ARES officials be admitted to appropriate Wise County training classes.

When a disaster occurs requiring the use of amateur radio communications, the Wise County OEM, through an individual representative and with the understanding of the agencies to be served, may recommend the assistance of Wise County ARES. This assistance may include, but is not limited to the following:

1. The alerting and mobilization of amateur radio volunteer emergency communications personnel in accordance with a prearranged plan.
2. The establishment and maintenance of fixed, mobile, and/or portable station emergency communication equipment for local radio coverage, and point-to-point contact between public safety officials and locations as required.
3. Maintenance of the continuity of communications for the duration of the emergency period or until normal communications channels are substantially restored.

B. Wise County Amateur Radio Emergency Service

Wise County ARES agrees to supply the Wise County OEM with lists of emergency communicators on an annual basis. The Wise County OEM agrees to supply Wise County ARES with pertinent information and points of contact at various locations on an annual basis.

Detailed operating plans for the utilization of the communication facilities of the amateur radio service shall be developed with the Wise County OEM in cooperation with local ARES EC and amateur radio personnel.

ARES volunteers will be encouraged to take part in pre-disaster training and planning, work with Wise County OEM to provide amateur radio communications equipment and volunteers, and to meet the needs of disaster communications plans.

VII. ACTIVATION AND DEMOBILIZATION

A. Activation

When the Wise County EMC determines there is a need for the ARES group, a formal activation procedure shall be initiated. To activate, the Wise County EMC will contact the Wise County ARES EC or his designee by phone, email, text, radio, or other agreed upon means. The ARES EC, or designee, will then contact the Wise County EMC to receive further information about the scope of the request. The ARES EC, or designee, will then determine if the request can be fulfilled by the ARES group. During times of emergencies or disasters affecting the county, other jurisdictions within Wise County shall coordinate ARES request through the Wise County OEM.

The Wise County ARES EC shall keep the Wise County OEM informed of any activation of ARES members, both for in county and out of county activations. This helps to ensure that the WCOEM is aware of the general status of the Wise County ARES group. This is in no way meant to imply that WCOEM has authority over activations of ARES members by other jurisdictions, but is to coordinate the situational awareness of the groups' availability.

B. Demobilization

When the Wise County EMC determines there is no longer a need for the ARES group, a formal demobilization procedure shall be initiated. The Wise Count EMC will contact the ARES EC, or designee, via a predetermined method to let the ARES contact know that the need no longer exists. The ARES leader may also inform the Wise County EMC when there is a change of status and the objective cannot be met. If ARES personnel determine that the assigned mission is no longer practicable, needs altering, or is otherwise not achievable, the ARES contact must inform the Wise County EMC.

VIII. IDENTIFICATION

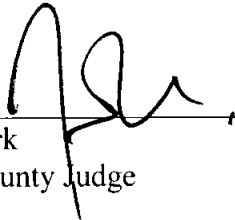
Identification Badges

Approved Wise County ARES volunteers will have ARES credentials issued to them by the ARES EC for identification purposes.

IX. Term of Agreement

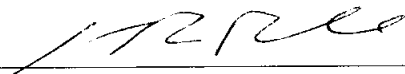
This agreement is effective as of the date indicated below, and shall remain in effect unless terminated by written notification from either party to the other; or, until replaced by an updated version mutually agreed to by both parties.

Date of Agreement:



J.D. Clark
Wise County Judge

1-14-19
Date



Cody Powell
Wise County Emergency Management Coordinator

1/16/19
Date



Thomas Pennington RE5ZKF
Wise County ARES Emergency Coordinator

1/24/19
Date