Shelter Operations

Amateur Radio operators provide backup for overloaded Red Cross communications systems, staffing Red Cross Shelters, various Red Cross units, and the office of Emergency Management, the Salvation Army and others involved in the aftermath of tragedy. In times of disaster, the nation's ham radio operators are often the first to volunteer their communications expertise. Today, there are nearly 700,000 Amateur Radio operators in the United States and more than 2.5 million worldwide

Shelters are a temporary place of protection where disaster victims can find assistance and supplies. Shelters may operate during an event, **Response**, such as stranded motorists during a snow storm, or after an event, **Recovery**, such as individuals and families displaced by a tornado.

In shelters, children may need to be entertained, but adults are worried about what happens next. Repeaters and auto patches allow Welfare communication to inform, advise and reassure friends, families and relatives.

Hams at shelters provide communication support and backup, handle outgoing health-and-welfare traffic, and reassure shelter residents that they are not totally out of touch with the outside world. Hams working in the shelters should maintain a high profile.

Tom Busch (WB8WOR) and Matt Pierce (N9VKU) at the satelite station at BARC-IUARC Field Day, 2004

Health and Welfare

In the event of a natural or man-made disaster, radio amateurs, including ARRL-certified volunteers will work with community organizations to relay vital information in a structured and accurate manner. They are skilled at composing and relaying messages by voice and through computer based Amateur Radio communications modes. ARS volunteers will join local ARES nets and will support emergency activities ranging from equipment logistics, victim location and identification, emergency shelter, food and water information, medical equipment and materiel distribution, and, sometimes, life-and-death communication.

Emergency | Priority | Break

Break -- The normal, polite request for an opportunity to interrupt an *ongoing contact* is the lowest priority of interruption. *Break* is also often recognized during an *Open Net* and *may* be granted during an *Informal Directed Net.* The NCS can break back with a higher priority should events warrant a change in net status.

NCS or an operator on any contact will always STOP everything and answer the following interruption priority calls immediately.

Priority -- The second highest level of interruption, *Priority*, means the traffic concerns an *immediate safety issue regarding* human *life or injury, or impending property damage*.

Emergency -- The highest level of priority, *Emergency*, is reserved for **only** *danger-of-death or serious-injury-if-message-is-not-heard-immediately* messages

Emergency calls can interrupt *Priority, Break,* **Welfare** or normal traffic. *Priority* calls can interrupt *Break*, **Welfare**, or normal traffic, but *not Emergency.* **Break** should never be used during a *Formal Directed Emergency Net*. During nets, rely on NCS to dispatch assistance.

.Emergency messages within the disaster area often have life-death urgency. Much of the local traffic will be on VHF/UHF. Emergency, Priority and Welfare traffic flowing outside the disaster area may be best handled on HF using the NTS. Incoming Health and Welfare traffic should be handled only after all Emergency and Priority traffic is cleared because it can easily overload an already busy system.

Property Damage Surveys / Assessments

Damage caused by natural disasters can be sudden and extensive. Responsible officials in and near the event may need communications assistance. Such reports and data are used to initiate and coordinate disaster relief and recovery.

Red Cross damage assessment teams survey an area to calculate initial impact estimates. EMA may request surveys to ascertain the amount of outside assistance needed in an area. Using a ride-along ham provides instantaneous contact with the Chapter House or EOC

Definitions

ARES	Amateur Radio Emergency Service
ARRL	Amateur Radio Relay League
ARS	The Amateur Radio Service of the Federal Communications Commission
BARC	Bloomington Amateur Radio Club
CAP	Civil Air Patrol
CW	Continuous wave – Morse code
EC	(ARES) Emergency Coordinator
DHS	Department of Homeland Security
EMA	Emergency Management MCEMA SEMA=State FEMA=Federal
EMC	Agency / Center MCEMC=County
EOC	Emergency Operations Center MCEOC = County
FCC	Federal Communications Commission
HAZMAT	Hazardous Materials
HF	High Frequency (1.8 - 30 MHz)
ICS	Incident Command System, component of National Incident Management System [NIMS]
IUARC	Indiana University Amateur Radio Club
MARS	Military Affiliate Radio System
Modes	Various ARS methods of operation: CW, phone, packet, digital, FSTV. SSTV, etc.
MOU / SOU	Memorandum of Understanding / Statement of Understanding
NCS	Net Control Station
Net	A frequency controlled by an NCS for station-to-station traffic
NIMS	National Incident Management System
Phone	Voice mode on the Amateur RadioService
RACES	Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service
Repeater	A radio which receives signals on one frequency and transmits on a second. Usually has better antenna and location and better power than personal stations.
SATERN	Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network
SINCGARS	Single-channel Indiana Army National Guard Radio Service
SOU / MOU	Statement of Understanding / Memorandum of Understanding
UHF	Ultra High Frequency (420-450 MHz)
VHF	Very High Frequency (144-148 MHz)

Conclusion

Amateur radio operators should become familiar with the *ARRL Operating Manual,* especially the *Desktop Reference* and the chapters on "Emergency Communications" and "Traffic Handling Procedures," and the *ARES Field Resources Manual,* from which much of the operational information for this Plan is derived.

The purpose of this plan is to provide broad written guidelines with a minimum of information needed in an emergency and to define the roles and responsibilities of the licensed amateur radio operators volunteering for Emergency Communications service in Monroe County. Additional, more detailed, information on operating procedures, net control operations and training, *Skywarn* and local weather events, and cave rescue services is, or will be, available from Monroe County ARES and/or BARC in the form of meeting handouts or brochures.

Monroe County ARES-RACES and the approximately 500 amateur radio operators licensed in this area, and the hundreds in surrounding counties, are proud to offer radio communications support to the community in the hope that such assistance is rarely called for.

ARES – RACES GROUP

Emergency Management Agency
119 West 7th Street
Bloomington, IN 47401
812.349.2546

MONROE COUNTY ARES-RACES GROUP Emergency Committee

EMA RACES OFFICER
ARRL-ARES EMERGENCY COORDINATOR
  Carl Zager (KB9RVB)
ASSISTANT EMA RACES OFFICERS / ARES ECs:

  Bobby Bristoe (KB9UVW) Net Manager
  Rob Hamros (KB9RNB) Membership
  Kevin Pauley (KB9WVI) Community Relations
  Maynard Raggio (N9PTG) Simplex Operations
ASSISTANT ARRL DIRECTOR – Indiana
  Neil Rapp (WB9VPG)
  Jay Sissom (KA9OKT)
ARES EMERGENCY COORDINATOR, EMERITUS
  Millard Qualls (K9DIY)
OWEN COUNTY LIAISON
  John Sullivan (WD9BKA

Emergency Management Director
  John Hooker
Red Cross Director of Disaster Services
  Maria Carrasquillo

RADIO AMATEURS

Michael Aronoff (N9YYM)
Tom Busch (WB8WOR)
Allan Gutstadt (KF9RA)
Richard Landgrebe (WB9HXP)
John P Maassen (K9FK)
Murl McRae (WA9CWT)
Dan Miller (KQ9I)
Bob Poortinga (K9SQL)
William Wootton (KC9ACL)

Community Contacts

BLOOMINGTON AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
  http:www.bloomingtonradio.com

INDIANA UNIVERSITY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

  http://www.indiana.edu/~k9iu/

ARRL INDIANA SECTION
  SECTION MANAGER: Jim Sellers (K9ZBM)
  E-Mail: k9zbm@arrl.net Phone: 219.825.5425
  http://www.arrl.org/sections/IN.html
  SECTION EMERGENCY COORDINATOR:
  David L Pifer (N9YNF)
  Phone:812.466.1005   E-Mail: n9ynf@arrl.net

  SECTION TRAFFIC MANAGER:
  Frank M Dick II (WA9JWL)
  Phone:765.642.1237 E-Mail: fmdick@iquest.net
ARGUS K9 SAR [SEARCH AND RESCUE]
  Contact: John Poehlman (N9TFS)
  E-Mail: argusk9@bloomington.in.us
INDIANA KARST CONSERVANCY
CAVE RESCUE TEAM
  Contact Anmar Mirza (N9ISY)
  E-Mail: amirza@indiana.edu
  Rescue: 812-337-7050
  Home: 812-388-6917
  http://www.caves.org/io/ncrc-cr/
Military Affiliate Radio System [MARS]
  Army: Gerald Bailey (KB9XA)
  Air Force: Ed Woods (WD9DVA)
  Navy / Marine Corps: Paul Schmidt (K9PS)
  E-Mail: k9ps@arrl.net

Monroe County Emergency Management
  E-Mail: jhooker@co.monroe.in.us
  Telephone: 812.349.2546
  http://www.co.monroe.in.us/

Emergency Management Advisory Committee [EMAC]
  Herb Kilmer, Monroe County Commissioners
  Trent Jones, Monroe County Council
  Bob Schmidt, Secretary, Health Department
  Steven Sharp, Monroe County Sheriff
  Kevin Robling, CoS, City of Bloomington

  Jim Davis, Town of Ellettsville
  Randy Carter, Stinesville Town Board
  Kim Long, Indiana University
  Don Adams, Local Business Owner
  Lt. Col. Robert Young (W9GBJ), CAP Liaison
  Maria Carrasquillo, Red Cross Liaison
American Red Cross – Monroe County
  E-mail: mcarrasq@monroe-redcross.org
  Telephone: 812.332.7292
  http://www.monroe-redcross.org/

Civil Air Patrol – Monroe County Squadron
  Commander: LtC Robert L Young (W9GBJ)