

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 satellite 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)