

**Statement of Understanding  
Between  
Duval County Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES)  
And  
The American Red Cross, Northeast Florida Chapter**

**Purpose:**

To provide an agreement under which licensed amateur radio operators provide communications assistance to the American Red Cross, (ARC) a non-profit organization, during civil emergency or disaster situations in which life and/or property are in danger.

**Mission:**

The mission of ARES is to provide support radio communications between the ARC Emergency Communications Center (ECC) at 751 Riverside Avenue in Jacksonville, Florida and designated Red Cross shelters.

**Execution:**

ARC will request communications assistance from ARES through the local Emergency Coordinator (EC) or one of the Assistant EC's. The EC or AEC shall assess the situation and will mobilize and assign amateur radio operators to specific duties or posts based upon need.

The operations of ARES radio networks (nets) will be under the control and direction of the EC, AEC, or senior net control operator.

The EC shall have absolute and exclusive authority to adjust, redistribute, or reassign amateur radio communications personnel as conditions warrant. Due to the nature of voluntary communications services, ARES cannot guarantee *any* served agency an exact number of communicators for any given situation, but will make every attempt to provide coverage for specific missions with available resources.

Disaster and emergency conditions may produce hazardous environments, which require ARC to maintain complete control at all times of ingress/egress, location, and mobility of ARES volunteers who are engaged in providing communications at an ARC facility or shelter. Additionally, ARC reserves the right to require use of personal protective devices (supplied by ARC) and the right to refuse or restrict access to anyone, at any time.

**Confidentiality and privacy:**

ARC retains the right to place restrictions on the **mode** of communications by which certain confidential messages and traffic is handled or passed due to its confidential nature.

It is further agreed that ARC will recognize the identification (**ID**) badges issued by Jacksonville Emergency Preparedness as sufficient evidence of a communicator's identity. At their option, ARC may issue their own **ID** cards as a courtesy to the ARES member, provided it is understood that this is not a requirement.

ARC and ARES acknowledge and understand that persons providing emergency communications as set forth within this MOU are under the control of ARES operating guidelines and procedures, and will be under the supervision of the EC, or his designee.

**Incongruities**

In the unlikely event that an ARC or ARES member encounters a situation involving antagonism, conflict, or discord between one another, the individual (s) shall report the incident through their **own** organization's chain of command, provided that the two parties are unable to resolve the problem in a manner mutually agreeable to both.

This agreement is effective upon signature by the authorized representative of both parties. Either party may cancel this agreement with 30 days advance notification in writing to the other.

**AGREED:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**ARES EMERGENCY COORDINATOR**

2/26/08  
**DATE**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**AMERICAN RED CROSS AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE**

2/26/08  
**DATE**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**TITLE**