

District

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
BETWEEN PARK COUNTY SHERIFF  
AND AMATEUR RADIO EMERGENCY SERVICE (ARES) Colorado District 6

I. Purpose

The purpose of this document is to provide guidelines for the authorization and activation of Amateur Radio Operators when needed in an emergency and to define the procedures to be followed.

II. Introduction to Amateur Radio and ARES

Amateur Radio Service - The Amateur Radio Service consists of radio operators who are licensed by the Federal Communications Commission. Amateur Radio Operators are required to take examinations and to maintain these licenses in order to operate their equipment. These examinations test the operator's technical skills and knowledge of telecommunications, including FCC rules and regulations. The American Radio Relay League (ARRL), the national association for Amateur Radio, represents Amateur Radio Operators to federal agencies and international organizations with regards to emergency and other forms of communications.

Amateur Radio Emergency Service - Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) is Sponsored by the American Radio Relay League (ARRL) to provide supplemental or Emergency communications. Founded in 1935 as the Amateur Emergency Corps, ARES Members have volunteered their equipment and capabilities in the event of an emergency.

Agencies that have been served by District 6 ARES include the National Forest Service, Colorado Forest Service, Home Land security, American National Red Cross, Salvation Army and the National Weather Service through SKYWARN.

Although the primary responsibility of ARES is to provide communications, which could be commutations with fire crews, programming or cloning served agencies radios. Amateur Radio Operators may also be called upon as observers. Because most Amateur Radio Operators Have mobile radios in their vehicles, ARES members may be called upon to perform duties such as damage surveys, weather spotting during severe weather, or search Functions.

III Amateur Radio Operating Authority

The Communications Act of 1934, Section 606 as amended Executive Order 12472, Assignment of National Security and Emergency Preparedness Telecommunications Functions.

Amateur Radio Operators operate under Title 47 Code of Federal Regulations, US Code 151,154(i) and (o); Chapter 1, Part, Subpart A, Sections 97.1, 97.105, 97.115, 97.301, and Subpart E, Federal Communications Commission Rules and Regulations,

IV Amateur Radio Service call up.

Activating Official is defined as a member of any served agency that is authorized to activate ARES District 6 in the public interest and to take responsibility for those who respond to this request.

ARES Officials is defined as a member of ARES District 6 who can be contacted to Request a response by its members. This includes the Emergency Coordinator, Officers and Team Leaders. These persons will take responsibility for calling as many ARES members as possible to facilitate an adequate response for the emergency or event.

V ARES Organization.

Emergency Coordinator - Appointment to this position is by the ARRL Colorado Section Manager or the ARRL Colorado Section Emergency Coordinator. The Emergency Coordinator represents the ARRL at the local level and is responsible for all ARES activities.

The Emergency Coordinator directs emergency operations of Amateur Radio Operators.

Assistant Emergency Coordinators (or Officers) - Appointed by the Emergency Coordinator, these officers help the Emergency Coordinator effectively manage ARES. These areas include Operations, Logistics, Training and Planning, and Administration.

#### VI Training

Members of District 6 ARES spend many hours each year training. In addition to Weekly on-the-air training sessions, exercises are held six times a year with at least one major national exercise per year. Training sessions are also held six times per year at face-to-face meetings. Field Day, held in June each year, is used as a multi-day deployment exercise to test ARES ability to operate under unusual conditions for several days.

In order to make training exercises most effective, joint training and exercises between various districts in Colorado Counties is encouraged as often as practical.

#### VII. Liability

Known as the Volunteer Protection Act of 1997, US Public Law 105-19 protects volunteers from liability as long as they are acting within the scope of their training and responsibility.

Colorado Revised Statutes also provides certain protection under the Volunteer Service Act (CRS 13-21-115.5). This statute, similar to the Federal law stated above, further protects volunteers. Each member of ARES must evaluate the risk for responding to the request from Served agencies and may refuse should the risk be deemed too great

#### VIII Operating Guide Lines.

Members of Ares district 6 operate as outlined in the Member Operating Manual for District 6 ARES or as specified by the serving agency or an Emergency Response Plan. This guide is distributed to all members.

#### VIII. Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (R.A.C.E.S.)

Official R.A.C.E.S organization is a registered Civil Defense organization. In the event of a national emergency where the President of the United States would invoke his War Emergency Powers; Amateurs Radio Operators enrolled in the local civil preparedness group would be limited to certain frequencies, while other amateur operations would be silenced. These include but are not limited to

Natural Disasters

- Technological Disasters
- Nuclear Accidents
- Nuclear Attack
- Terrorist Incidents
- Bomb Threats; and
- Weapons of Mass Destruction

#### IX. Mobilization and Activation

ARES District 6 will provide a current list of individuals authorized to activate ARES members. This list also provides the specific information needed for an appropriate response. We will make this list available to all personnel authorized to activate ARES, including dispatch personnel.

District 6 ARES will coordinate other recognized auxiliary and emergency Communications groups when ARES resources are inadequate to meet the needs of the served agency, during an emergency or event.

X. Identification

ARES District 6 will provide or assist in obtaining proper identification for access to the Park County Emergency Operation Center, Communications Center (Dispatch) and other areas as required. These ID cards will identify ARES members to officials during joint drills and emergency deployment. Although ARES members will or have submitted to background checks performed by the Park County Sheriff's Office, additional checks may be performed as required for admission to sensitive areas such as the Communications Center (Dispatch) or the Emergency operations Center (EOC).

XI. Other Operating Stations

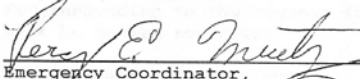
Amateur Radio operators may also be asked to staff the ARES station at the Sheriff's communication center as well as a Command Vehicle for supplemental communications, including but not limited to Voice, Amateur Radio Television (ATV) and digital communications (packet) and Slow Scan Television (SSTV).

XII. Summary

This Memorandum of Understanding shall take effect upon signature by authorized official of Park County Sheriff and the District 6 Amateur Radio Emergency Service.

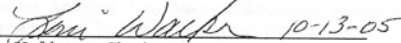
This memorandum may be amended by mutual agreement of both parties, and shall remain in effect until terminated. District 6 Amateur Radio Emergency Service and the authorized Officials of Park County will periodically review and coordinate such revisions as may be necessary. Upon Ninety (90) days written notice, either party may terminate this memorandum.


Dated this \_\_\_ day of October 2005.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Emergency Coordinator,  
District 6 Amateur Radio Emergency Service.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Park County Sheriff

Park County Board of County Commissioners

By  10-13-05  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Leni Walker, Chairperson

Attest:  
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
County Clerk  
DEPUTY

