

Local Memorandum of Understanding
Between the
St. Louis County Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES®)
A voluntary emergency and public service communications organization
sponsored by the American Radio Relay League, Inc.
and
Saint Louis County Department of Public Health

Introduction

Saint Louis County Department of Public Health in St. Louis County, Missouri; here after referred to as StL Co DPH is responsible for improving the quality of health for Saint Louis County citizens and the St. Louis County Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES®) group in St. Louis County, Missouri; here after referred to as StL ARES®, responsible for the St. Louis County area and representing public-service oriented radio amateurs within this area, have agreed to enter into these local agreements which have formed the basis for this memorandum.

Purpose

This agreement between StL ARES®, the local Amateur Radio Emergency Service group and StL Co DPH establishes a framework of cooperation and a close working relationship with volunteer radio amateurs organized under the authority of the ARRL Emergency Coordinator and officials of the StL Co DPH. It is intended through joint cooperation of the local resources available to both signees, the public will best be served under disaster, emergency or public-service related situations. This document is not meant to be considered legally binding; it is a statement of cooperation between the two parties.

Recognition

The Amateur Radio Emergency Service consists of federally licensed radio amateurs who have voluntarily registered their qualifications and equipment for communication duty in the public service when disaster strikes pursuant to Federal Communications Commission Rule 97.1 (a) which states that a "fundamental purpose" of the Amateur Radio Service is: "Recognition and enhancement of the value of the amateur service to the public as a voluntary noncommercial communication service, particularly with respect to providing emergency communications."

The American Radio Relay League Inc, comprising more than 156,000 radio amateurs in the U.S. sponsors the ARRL Field Organization. More than 8,900 amateurs are registered as members of this national field organization which is divided into 71 geographical sections. The Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES®) is one segment of the ARRL's commitment to service the public in time of need. Local ARES groups are established components within ARES®. "ARES®" and "Amateur Radio Emergency Service" are registered service marks of the American Radio Relay League, Incorporated, and are used by permission.

The ARRL Missouri Section leadership within the Amateur Radio Emergency Service is exercised by the Section Emergency Coordinator (appointed by the elected ARRL Section Manager) with the Section Emergency Coordinator appointing District Emergency Coordinators and Emergency Coordinators within the section.

The local Emergency Coordinator is the key person within the ARRL Field Organization to provide an ARES response in a given locale.

The St. Louis County Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES®) is organized in the following manner:

Steve Wooten, KC0QMU: Emergency Coordinator (EC)

Gary Hoffman, KB0H: Assistant Emergency Coordinator (AEC) – Operations

Recognition

The StL Co DPH recognizes that the Amateur Radio Emergency Service is the ARRL sponsored emergency/public service oriented communications organization. ARES® consists of more than 35,000 licensed U.S. radio amateurs nationwide and can be of valuable assistance in providing critical communications during emergencies and disasters when normal lines of communication are disrupted.

The Amateur Radio Emergency Service recognizes StL Co DPH is committed to the protection of Saint Louis County citizens during public health emergencies. StL Co DPH works with local partners to ensure that plans and systems are in place to prepare for both natural and man-made disasters.

Method of Cooperation

For the communications resources of the StL ARES® to be coordinated and used to the fullest advantage during disasters and emergencies, and to the extent permitted or required by law and regulation, StL ARES® and StL Co DPH have agreed to the following:

1. The points of contact between StL ARES® and the StL Co DPH office are:

St. Louis County ARES:

Steven J Wooten, Emergency Coordinator

Gary Hoffman, Assistant Emergency Coordinator of Operations

StL Co DPH:

Gregg Kocher, Regional Response Planner

2. StL Co DPH will maintain the closest possible cooperation and direct operational assistance to StL ARES® in emergency communications planning, and in coordination of amateur radio communications facilities during an emergency.
3. StL ARES® and StL Co DPH will engage in an on-going dialog on emergency preparedness with each other. They will urge both staff and volunteers to create and maintain appropriate communications and effective relationships at all levels of both organizations.
4. StL ARES® will cooperate with StL Co DPH in pre-emergency planning, drills, exercises, and training programs at the level designated by StL Co DPH.
5. StL ARES® and StL Co DPH will work together to develop operating plans such that communications services, equipment, and facilities of the Amateur Radio Service may be suitably used.
6. Whenever there is a disaster requiring amateur radio communications, StL Co DPH will request the assistance of StL ARES®. This assistance may include:
 - Alerting and mobilizing StL ARES® members in accordance with the StL ARES® Emergency Plan

- Establishing and maintaining fixed, mobile, and portable station emergency communication capabilities for local amateur radio coverage and point-to-point contact between StL Co DPH and remote locations, as required
- Maintaining the continuity of communications for the duration of the emergency period or until normal communications channels are substantially restored.

Implementation

This memorandum shall take effect upon its signing by authorized representatives of the local Amateur Radio Emergency Service group and their ARRL Section Leaders and representatives of StL Co DPH. This memorandum may be amended by mutual agreement of both parties, and it is understood by both parties that at any time this Memorandum of Understanding may be terminated by written notification from either party to the other. Six months prior to the termination date of this MOU, which is 17 / SEP / 2017 (a two year term), the parties shall meet to review the progress and success of this MOU and determine whether it shall be extended for an additional five years and in no event shall any single extension of this MOU be for a term exceeding five years.

Miscellaneous

This Statement of Understanding does not create a partnership or a joint venture, and neither party has the authority to bind the other.

Date 9/17/15

Scott H. Johnson for FR

Title: Director Saint Louis County Department of Public Health

Date 9/17/15

John Allen

Title: Regional Emergency Response Planner Manager

Date 9/1/2015

Steven J. Wooten

ARRL Emergency Coordinator

Date 9/6/2015

William Grimsbo (NOPNP)

ARRL District Emergency Coordinator

Date 9/9/2015

J. L. Young KB3HF

ARRL Section Emergency Coordinator

Date 9/9/2015

Dale Bagley, KØKY

ARRL Section Manager (Required for Recognition by ARRL Field Organization)