



**Memorandum of Understanding
Between
Tyler County Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES®)
Radio Amateurs Civil Emergency Services (RACES)
And
Tyler County- Office of Emergency Management (OEM)**

I. Introduction

The Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES®) and the Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Services (RACES) is composed of amateur radio operators, who have volunteered their capabilities and equipment to provide supplementary communication in time of public need.

Amateurs are licensed by the Federal Communication Commission (FCC) after passing a written examination on their knowledge of telecommunication and technical skills in the operation of radio equipment.

In accordance with treaties agreed under the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), frequencies throughout the radio spectrum are allocated to the amateur radio service. By selection of appropriate frequency bands, amateurs are capable of communications around the world, throughout a geographical region, or may be limited communications to only a local area.

All nations allocate valuable space in the radio spectrum to the amateur radio service, because of its ability to immediately respond in the time of need and quickly establish communications where none existed or to supplement existing emergency radio services overloaded with disaster communications.

Under FCC rules and regulations, amateurs may not be compensated for providing communications and are prohibited from providing communication that furthers the conduct of any business. An exception is defined for the paid

broadcast engineer, who is a licensed amateur, who communicates on amateur frequencies in accordance with emergency operation plans.

II. Organizations

- A. Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES®)
ARES® is sponsored by the American Radio Relay League (ARRL) to provide supplementary or emergency communications for public service purposes other than civil preparedness. Agencies served include the American Red Cross, the Salvation Army, law enforcement, city and volunteer fire departments and/or other government agencies as needed. In all instances in this MOU, it is understood that ARES® is a registered trademark of the ARRL.

- B. Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES)
RACES (Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service). A radio service using amateur stations for civil defense communications during periods of local, regional, or national civil emergencies. All communications transmitted in RACES must be specifically authorized by the civil defense organization for the area served.
A RACES station may only communicate with:
 - (1) Another RACES station;
 - (2) An amateur station registered with a civil defense organization;
 - (3) A United States Government station authorized by the responsible agency to communicate with RACES stations;
 - (4) A station in a service regulated by the FCC whenever the FCC authorizes such communication.

- C. National Weather Service (NWS)
The NWS sponsors Operation SKYWARN and trains amateur radio operators as spotters during severe weather and thunderstorms.

- D. National Traffic System (NTS)
The NTS is sponsored by the ARRL to provide a network of local, state, area, and transcontinental radio circuits for the transmission of non-commercial message traffic in support of the public interest.

- E. Military Affiliate Radio System (MARS)
MARS is a radio communications service of licensed amateurs who are affiliated with the Department of Defense military services (Army, Navy, and Air Force) as an adjunct to military communications.

III. Authority

Title 47 U.S.C. 151, 145(I); Chapter 1, Part 97, Subpart A, Sections 97.1, 97.89, 97.407
97.91, 97.107 and Subpart F (all); Federal Communications Commission Rules and Regulations, Amateur Radio Service.

IV. Purpose

The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is to provide an understanding for the authorization and mobilization of volunteer amateur radio operators when needed in a communications emergency.

- A. ARES®/RACES may supply communication services where no established links exist or supplement existing system(s) if they are overloaded or disabled, such services may include the following:
 - 1. Communications between Tyler County, the City of Chester, the City of Colmesneil, the City of Ivanhoe, City of Woodville as well as state and federal agencies.
 - 2. Intercommunications among county, private, and public service organizations.
 - 3. Additional public service communication.
 - 4. Health and welfare communications inside the state and most anywhere in the world.
- B. A secondary purpose of ARES/RACES is to provide non-emergency communications for city and county agencies and services or other qualified organizations at the discretion of the ARES®/RACES officer.

V. Method of Cooperation

In order that the emergency communications of ARES®/RACES and NTS may be coordinated and utilized to the fullest advantage during disasters, Tyler County and the Office of Emergency Management (OEM) agree to the following:

- A. Through its leadership, Tyler County ARES®/RACES will establish a regular liaison with Tyler County and the OEM. The liaison will provide cooperation and direct operational assistance with regard to emergency communications planning, and the coordination of amateur

radio communications personnel, equipment and/or facilities for relief operations.

- B. Tyler County and the OEM welcomes the cooperation and assistance of Tyler County ARES®/RACES, to extend emergency communications coordination and planning, into the jurisdiction of Tyler County and the OEM.

Tyler County and the OEM will be urged to further the cooperative effort, by requesting Tyler County ARES®/RACES and NTS personnel serve as disaster volunteers for emergency communications. Such personnel will be expected to report to the ARES® Emergency Coordinator (EC) /RACES Chief Liaison officer (CLO) of said jurisdiction.

ARES®/RACES and NTS volunteers will be encouraged to take part in pre-disaster training and planning, work with Tyler County and the OEM to provide amateur radio communications equipment and volunteers, and to meet the needs of disaster communications plans.

- C. When a disaster occurs requiring the use of amateur radio Communications, the Tyler County OEM, through an individual representative and with the understanding of the agencies to be served, may recommend the assistance of ARES®/RACES near the scene of a disaster. This assistance may include, but is not limited to the following:
1. The alerting and mobilization of amateur radio volunteer emergency communications personnel in accordance with a prearranged plan.
 2. The establishment and maintenance of fixed, mobile, and/or portable station emergency communication equipment for local radio coverage, and point-to-point contact between public safety officials and locations as required.
 3. Maintenance of the continuity of communications for the duration of the emergency period or until normal communications channels are substantially restored.
- D. Tyler County ARES®/RACES agrees to supply the Tyler County OEM with lists of emergency communicators on an annual basis. The Tyler County OEM agrees to supply Tyler County ARES®/RACES with pertinent information and points of contact at various locations on an annual basis

- E. Detailed operating plans for the utilization of the communication Facilities of the amateur radio service shall be developed with the Tyler County OEM in cooperation with local ARRL, ARES®/RACES and NTS personnel.
- F. Tyler County and the OEM will request representation from the local ARES®/RACES and NTS organizations for input and discussion with regard to disaster preparedness with emergency communications.
- G. Approved Tyler County ARES®/RACES volunteers will have ARES® and/or RACES credentials issued to them by the ARES® EC/RACES Chief Liaison Officer for identification purposes.
- H. Tyler County and the OEM will recommend a standing Committee be appointed within the organization as a means of maintaining liaison with local ARES®/RACES officials. The Tyler County OEM will recommend local ARES®/RACES officials be admitted to appropriate Tyler County training classes.
- I. Each organization will distribute copies of this MOU through its field structure and make copies available to other organizations, both public and private, which may have an active interest and participation in disaster relief operations.

VI. Term of Agreement

This agreement is effective as of the date indicated below, and shall remain in effect unless terminated by written notification from either party to the other; or, until replaced by an updated version mutually agreed to by both parties.

Date of Agreement: 10-20-16

Jacques Blanchette
Tyler County Judge

Date

Ken Jobe
Tyler County Emergency Management Coordinator

Date

Nick Toparcean, AE5VV
Tyler County ARES Emergency Coordinator
Tyler County RACES Chief Liaison Officer

Date