



Amateur Radio Emergency Service Operation/Emergency Plan for The State of Louisiana



**Amateur Radio Relay League – Louisiana Section
August 26, 2008**

Preface

We are fortunate to live in such a wonderful state. Louisiana, sometimes known as the “Sportsman’s Paradise” and the “Bayou State”, has something for almost everyone. North to south and east to west, we are about as diverse as a state could be.

We have large cities and small rural communities. We have rolling hills and marshes. We have salt domes and oil fields. We have pine forests and heavily industrialized areas. As you cross the state, you will find differences in geography, culture, religion, and more. From Mardi Gras in New Orleans to the Mayhaw Festival in Marion; from the Peach Festival in Ruston to the Crawfish Festival in Breaux Bridge; from the Sugar Cane Festival to all the others, we enjoy living and doing, for ourselves and each other. We have many differences, yet we are all Louisianans who know how to pull together when necessary.

All parts of the state have been, and continue to be, vulnerable to natural and technological disasters. In just the past few years, we have experienced hurricanes, ice storms, floods, tornados, hail, flash floods, chemical fires, train derailments and more. It has been proven that during almost any disaster, communications is the key to an efficient operation and recovery.

In emergency situations, if those up front can’t call for support, or if an incident command can’t find out what is happening, you have chaos. The purpose of the following document is to identify the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) as a key part of providing emergency and disaster related communications, and to provide a basis and framework under which the ARES groups in the state will operate.

ASSUMPTIONS

An emergency is defined as a situation or an impending situation that by its nature or magnitude, affects the health, safety, welfare and property of a community, and requires a controlled and coordinated response.

Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) is part of the Field Services Organization of the American Radio Relay League. ARES members represent a large portion of the more than six hundred thousand amateur radio operators in the United States.

Amateur radio operators are allocated a portion of the radio spectrum for experimentation and public service. Amateur radio has a long history of service in natural and man-made disasters. Unlike most radio services, amateur operators have thousands of frequencies open to them, and numerous methods to use them. This flexibility can be indispensable in an emergency. Their technical qualifications and strict operating standards complement this flexibility.

Amateur radio operators may be called to render public service when a competent official recognizes that an emergency condition exists and request that such service be rendered. When emergency assistance is requested by a government official, liability is assumed by the jurisdiction of the requesting official.

ARES can supply communication services where no established links exist or supplement the existing infrastructure if overloaded or disabled. Amateur radio networks may be organized to accommodate needs such as:

- a. Back-up or supplemental communications where a public safety radio system, cellular or telephone service may be lost, out of range, or overloaded

- b. A direct link with the National Weather Service, i.e., SKYWARN
- c. Observations of local conditions (weather, traffic, etc) relayed back to public officials
- d. A communications network at the outer perimeter of an evacuated area.

(This plan is subject to revisions as required.)

**Amateur Radio Emergency Service
Operation/Emergency Plan for
The State of Louisiana**

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. It is recognized that the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) is sponsored by, and is an integral part of, the American Radio Relay League (ARRL). All ARES members and leadership are expected to abide by the rules and procedures set forth by the ARRL.
- 1.2. This document shall provide the basis and framework upon which district and parish ARES groups may build their plans around.
- 1.3 While some of the ARRL's rules are specific in nature, and should always be followed, it is the intent of this document to take the diversity of the State into account and therefore provide the maximum flexibility possible to district and parish leadership officials.
- 1.4 Under Federal regulations, amateur radio public service communications are furnished without compensation.
- 1.5 ARES is composed of FCC-licensed amateur radio operators who have voluntarily registered their capabilities and equipment for public service communications duty. For "rank and file" ARES members, ARRL membership is not required (but is recommended). Other than your amateur radio license, the only requirement for ARES membership is the desire to use your abilities to serve the public interest during emergency situations.
- 1.6 ARES leadership officials are required to maintain membership in the ARRL.
- 1.7 Operation under the Incident Command System (ICS) and National Incident Command System (NIMS) is the goal for all ARES groups when working local and State Emergency Managers and with other served agencies. ARRL Emergency Communications training and FEMA sponsored training is encouraged, especially for ARES leadership field appointees.

2. PURPOSE

- 2.1. The purpose of this plan is to provide a written guide containing the minimum information that would be needed in daily operation or in an emergency. Each emergency is different and maximum flexibility to provide adequate communications must be maintained.
- 2.2. The primary responsibility of ARES, within the State of Louisiana, is to furnish communications in the event of a disaster, emergency or drill, when regular communications fail, are inadequate, or are non-existent, or when it is deemed that the safety of the general public or other emergency responders may be enhanced by activation of amateur radio operations. Under ICS, the Incident Commander may direct deployment.

3. ORGANIZATION

- 3.1. ARES groups in the State of Louisiana shall function under the following chain of command.
 - 3.1.1. The Section Manager (SM), being duly elected by majority of ARRL members in the

state, is recognized as the ultimate authority in any ARRL, ARES, or National Traffic System (NTS) matters within the state.

- 3.1.2. The SM shall have the authority to appoint a Section Emergency Coordinator (SEC), who shall administer the state's ARES plan, and oversee coordination of all ARES activities in the state.
 - 3.1.3. The SM shall have the authority to appoint Assistant Section Emergency Coordinators (ASEC) who shall assist the SEC in their duties. The SEC shall forward to the SM their recommendations for the position of ASEC.
 - 3.1.4.3. The SM, under advisement of the SEC, shall appoint District Emergency Coordinators (DECs) who shall assist and coordinate the parish level EC's within their District.
 - 3.1.5. The SM, under advisement of the SEC shall appoint Assistant District Emergency Coordinators to assist the DEC's in their duties. The DEC's shall forward to the SEC their recommendations for the position of ADEC.
 - 3.1.6. The SM under advisement of the SEC shall appoint and parish level Emergency Coordinators (ECs). DECs shall forward to the SEC their recommendations for the position of EC for each parish within their district having enough interest and participation to support a program.
 - 3.1.74. ECs may appoint Assistant ECs (AECs) as necessary. AECs are not an official ARRL Field Organization appointments and, therefore, do not require SEC or SM approval. An EC should, however, discuss his appointment of AECs with his DEC.
 - 3.1.85. All ARES leadership officials serve at the discretion of the SM, and as such, may be promoted or dismissed at any time. Their terms shall run concurrent with that of the SM, a two-year term starting the first of April on even years.
 - 3.1.96. The duties for each of these positions are shown in the *Emergency Coordinator's Manual*, publication FSD-9, available from ARRL, 225 Main Street, Newington, CT 06111.
- 3.2. In each parish, a primary responsibility of the EC is to insure that there is a written ARES Emergency/Operations plan for his parish. An EC may seek assistance from his DEC, SEC, other ECs who have existing plans, and the *Emergency Coordinator's Manual*. ECs should provide copies of their plans to ALL active ARES members in their program, and should provide copies, and any subsequent updates, to their DEC, SEC and SM.
 - 3.3. It is assumed that most emergencies and disasters occur at the local level. Taking our diversity into account, it is believed that those at the local level know most of the contacts and are better informed and equipped to make decisions on how things should be run at the parish level. In order to maintain continuity throughout the state, the SEC together with the Section Manager may recommend changes to local plans; however, the local EC should be given the maximum latitude possible in making his program functional.
 - 3.4. ARES is a volunteer service and its members are under no obligation to participate and there is no guaranteed response level. Members are asked to provide assistance based on their interests, abilities, and personal commitments. Should we experience a disaster, many of our own members may be victims and they must ensure the safety of their loved ones and their own property. Leadership officials at each level will endeavor to the best of their ability to fulfill the

needs of agencies served under this plan.

- 3.5. In any group, there is the possibility of personality conflicts. The EC, or his appointed staff, shall decide how assignments are made and who shall fill these assignments. We are all in this together and it is our hope that disagreements can be solved by discussion and willingness to be open-minded.
- 3.6. Each EC shall provide a monthly activity report to the SEC via ARRL form FSD212, by mail or other means agreed to by both parties. The SEC shall in turn provide a report to the Section Manager and the ARRL. In addition, each EC shall submit an “Annual Report”, prior to January 31. A copy of this report shall be forwarded to both the SEC and the ARRL.
- 3.7. It is recommended that ECs incorporate appendices in their plans, with the following information:
 - 3.7.1 List of current ARES leadership, with contact information such as Phone, Pager, Email, etc., at the Parish, District, and State level. (See Appendix I for example).
 - 3.7.2 Current membership list for their parish, including contact information, training, deployment availability and capabilities..
 - 3.7.3 List of possible served agencies, including point of contact, preferably two deep, with phone or other contact information.
 - 3.7.4 List of HF and VHF traffic and emergency nets and frequencies accessible by ARES members in your parish.
 - 3.7.5 List of required/recommended equipment for ARES members to have when activated or deployed.
 - 3.7.6 Any other appendices deemed necessary. NOTE: Appendices can easily be updated on a regular basis without having to totally rewrite your plan.
 - 3.7.7 All plans and appendices shall include an “issued on ...” date or a “last modified on...” date. Some ECs may find it easier to include a “revision history” showing which parts were changed and the dates those changes were made.

4. OPERATIONAL GROUPS

4.1. ARES – Amateur Radio Emergency Service

Previously known as the Amateur Radio Emergency Corps, the new name says it all. All coordinated efforts of amateur radio operation in the name of public safety, or in support of emergency or public service agencies falls under the jurisdiction of ARES.

- ##### **4.2. RACES – Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service**
- A service administered by the local emergency management office, with guidance by FEMA. Originally designed to operate during civil emergencies or war, should the President evoke the War Powers Act, all amateur radio functions are required to cease with the exception of RACES. Although technically a separate entity, which is joined by registering your services with the parish Office of Homeland Security/Emergency Preparedness (OHSEP), we recommend the parish EC work closely enough with the local Emergency Manager to allow ARES and RACES to function as one unit. Formation of a RACES group must be initiated by the Parish Emergency Manager through the State RACES Officer at the State OHSEP in Baton Rouge.

4.3. SKYWARN A program organized and sponsored by the National Weather Service, primarily made up of amateur radio operators. Various NWS offices will provide regular training classes and participants become registered as “Storm Spotters” who serve as the eyes and ears of the NWS. By forwarding eyewitness observations and exact locations of specific atmospheric events to the NWS, these spotters enable the NWS to issue watches and warnings sooner, which, in turn, saves lives. Although not required, it is highly recommended that all ARES members attend these free training sessions, and participate in this program. The Parish EC should strive to work with the Warning Coordination Meteorologist (WCM) at the NWS office covering their parish to coordinate training and participation.

5. OPERATIONS

- 5.1. It is recognized that the Governor’s Louisiana Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP) is the lead state agency dealing with natural and technological disasters and emergencies. The SEC, or his appointee, shall maintain open dialog with this agency. In accord with other provisions within this plan, we shall strive to provide communications between OHSEP and other agencies, both at the state and local level, as requested.
- 5.2. Amateur radio operators, by virtue of their special abilities and equipment, are often well suited to set up and maintain networks of communicators to support various emergency management and public service agencies.
- 5.3. In their local plans, ECs should establish nets, or liaisons with existing nets, to enable emergency messages and traffic to be moved in an expedient manner. Any member of the local ARES group who suspects a communication emergency exists should monitor the assigned net frequency for activity.
- 5.4. It is recommended that the local parish plan include references to the following:
 - 5.4.1. In any emergency situation, the local EC and AECs, and if deemed necessary, the DEC, ADEC, and SEC, and ASEC should be notified by radio, telephone, pager, or any other means necessary.
 - 5.4.2. In the event that the EC and AECs are unavailable, any trained member of the parish ARES group/organization may call the local emergency net into session and serve as the Net Control Station (NCS) until properly relieved.
 - 5.4.3. During emergency operations, announcements will be made on amateur frequencies by the EC or the appointed NCS.
 - 5.4.4. Upon awareness or notification that an emergency situation exists, ARES members will monitor the ARES net frequency designated in their local plan. In the event that all repeaters are down, simplex communications should be established. Relays may be necessary; however, the designated NCS shall remain in control of the frequency.
 - 5.4.5. When the emergency net has been called into formal session, stations should not transmit until invited to do so by the NCS. The only exception is stations with emergency or priority traffic.

- 5.4.6. In coordination with parish Emergency Management officials, a location should be designated as the focal point for all emergency communications. When feasible, this should be the Parish OHSEP. It is recommended that this location have full emergency power capability. Provisions for relief operators should be made to allow for continuous operation.
- 5.4.7. Field units are cautioned to keep safety in mind. Under no circumstances are you to put yourself in jeopardy. Remain alert and aware of the situation.
- 5.4.8. When necessary, the Emergency Manager will appoint a Public Information Officer (PIO). This person is responsible for all contact with the media. In an emergency, situations can change quickly. A misquote or incorrect statement could undermine the whole program. Let the appointed PIO do his job.

6. COORDINATION

- 6.1. ECs should maintain relations with contiguous parishes. Leadership officials should know each other and meet regularly, sharing information from their plans, since they may be tasked with assisting each other during emergency situations. This shall hold true for DECs and ADECs as well.
- 6.2. The SEC and the Section Traffic Manager (STM) shall maintain relations and coordinate liaison between ARES and NTS activities. As described in the ARRL's *Public Service Communications Manual*, the National Traffic System is dedicated to communications during emergencies on behalf of ARES.
- 6.3. In the event of wide area emergencies, the Louisiana SM and SEC should consult with their counterparts in neighboring Sections. Coordination details for wide area disasters are described in a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) jointly agreed upon in July 2000 by the LA, MS, and STX Sections. A copy of this MOU is in Appendix II. In addition, Appendix III contains a separate but similar MOU jointly agreed upon in June 2008 by the AR, LA, MS, and TN Sections. All Louisiana ARES members should be familiar with these two MOUs.
- 6.4 ECs are encouraged to pursue MOUs with their local served agencies. However, before any MOU is officially agreed upon by an EC and a local agency, the MOU must first be approved by the SEC, SM, and Headquarters. A MOU with the local Red Cross Chapter is not necessary as this is covered by the ARRL/ARC National MOU. Local Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) should, however, be developed with the local chapter to promote an understanding of local operating procedures.

7. TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

- 7.1 All ARES members are strongly encouraged to pursue training opportunities whenever possible. On-the-air training opportunities include participating in one or more of the following activities.
 - 7.1.1 Local ARES nets
 - 7.1.2 Local emergency drills and public service events
 - 7.1.3 ARRL Field Day in June
 - 7.1.4 ARRL Simulated Emergency Test (annual date varies)
 - 7.1.5 Louisiana ARES Net (LAN)
 - 7.1.6 Louisiana Traffic Net (LTN)

7.1.7 Louisiana CW Net (LCW)

7.1.8 Louisiana Slow Net (LSN)

7.2 In addition to on-the-air training, there are many opportunities for ARES members to pursue emergency communications training through self-study and formal courses. ARES members are encouraged to take at least Level I of the ARRL's on-line emergency communications course. ARES officials, in particular, are also expected to take Levels II and III of the ARRL's on-line courses. NIMS and FEMA courses such as 100, 200, 700, and 800 are strongly encouraged and may be required for ARES activity by your EOC.

8 DIGITAL MESSAGING

8.1 The HF Digital National Traffic System is encouraged for NTS type messages without email addresses.

8.2 Winlink 2000 is encouraged for destinations with email addresses. This may include HF and VHF with Telpac, Paalink, and Airmail utilization.

8.3 Pactor is the preferred mode for point-to-point HF digital communications using Airmail. The simplex point-to-point frequencies will be 3630.0 and 7080.0 LSB Mark (3595629.9 and 7079.9 center) for utilization inside the state.

8.4 ARES districts with metropolitan areas should develop a minimum of two VHF or UHF TelPac Internet gateway stations to provide Packet to Internet capability.

8.5 APRSLink is a limited capacity option for those areas with active APRS IGates and no Telpac Gateways.

8.6 Modes such as RTTY, PSK31 and others which do not have error correcting or error checking are not encouraged due to their ability to receive errors without realizing the transmitted message has changed.

8.7 Each ARES member should utilize Airmail with Winlink 2000 for ARES training and Emergency Communications on a regular basis. This includes receiving messages for third party delivery as well as sending messages.

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Reviewed/Modified:

January 30, 2006,

April 15, 2006,

June 4, 2006,

July 21, 2008

August 26, 2008

The following Appendices contain State information. Parish plans should include information specific to each individual parish.

APPENDIX I

Section Manager

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Assistant Section Manager

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Assistant Section Emergency Coordinator

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Section Traffic Manager

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ARRL

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Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP)

Roger Farbe

Communication Specialist

RACES / ARES Liaison

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ARES District Emergency Coordinators

Information on Louisiana ARES leadership, section net times and frequencies, and many other Louisiana Section Details can be found at: www.laarri.org

REGION 1 - SOUTH EAST DISTRICT

DEC Robert J McBride, AE5RN frobe438@bellsouth.net [View Parish List](#)

REGION 2 - CAPITOL DISTRICT

DEC Roger J Farbe, N5NXL n5nxl@bellsouth.net [View Parish List](#)

REGION 3 - BAYOU DISTRICT

DEC Kenneth D Standard, AD5XJ ad5xj@arrl.net [View Parish List](#)

REGION 4 - ACADIA DISTRICT

DEC Jaclyn L Price, KA5LMZ jelprice@atvci.net [View Parish List](#)

REGION 5 - SOUTH WEST DISTRICT

DEC Ronald K Phelps, KC5FGO kc5fgo@arrl.net [View Parish List](#)

ADEC Dick Rogers, WB5TUG wb5tug@arrl.net

ADEC Alan Levine, WA5LQZ wa5lqz@arrl.net

REGION 6 - CENTRAL DISTRICT

DEC James E Molan, KD5IGG kd5igg@bellsouth.net [View Parish List](#)

ADEC Scott B Wren, KD5DFL kd5df@cox-internet.com

ADEC Jessie C Tilghman, W5JZQ w5jzq@arrl.net

REGION 7 - NORTH WEST DISTRICT

DEC Edwin Higginbotham, KL7EMH edwinh@bellsouth.net [View Parish List](#)

ADEC Robert A Turner, KG5YK robertkg5yk@hotmail.com

REGION 8 - NORTH EAST DISTRICT

DEC William M (Mack) Redmond, KA5JNL ka5jnl2@bayou.com [View Parish List](#)

REGION 9 - NORTH LAKE DISTRICT

DEC James M Coleman III, AI5B ai5b@arrl.net [View Parish List](#)

ADEC Earl E Creel, N5ZD n5zd@i-55.com

ARES Emergency Coordinators

REGION 1 - SOUTH EAST DISTRICT AE5RN

DEC - Robert J McBride,

JEFF	Jefferson	Lyle P Brown, KD5EWD	kd5ewd@aol.com
ORLN	Orleans	Joel M Colman, N05FD	joel@colman.us
PLQM	Plaquemines	VACANT	
STBR	St. Bernard	VACANT	

REGION 2 - CAPITOL DISTRICT N5NXL

DEC - Roger J Farbe,

ASCN	Ascension	Albert J Taillon, Jr KD5NVE	kd5nve@arrl.net
EBTR	E. Baton Rouge	Robert Hobbs, N5ULA	n5ula@arrl.net
EFIC	E. Feliciana	David Delatte, AE5HH	Ddelatte50@yahoo.com
IBVL	Iberville	VACANT	
LVGN	Livingston	Douglas Dedon, W5RR	dwdedon@yahoo.com
PTPC	Pointe Coupee	Keith Graves, KG5A	kg5a@arrl.net
WBTR	W. Baton Rouge	VACANT	
EFLC	W. Feliciana	VACANT	

REGION 3 - BAYOU DISTRICT AD5XJ

DEC - Kenneth D Standard,

ASMP	Assumption	VACANT	
LAFX	Lafourche	Martin Wade, N5PJZ	mdwade@mobiletel.com
STCH	St. Charles	Charles Jouglard III, K5CFJ	k5cfj@cox.net
STJM	St. James	John LeBlanc, KE5JZM	ke5jzm@lucher.com
STJN	St. John	VACANT	
TRBN	Terrebonne	Kenneth Standard, AD5XJ	ad5xj@arrl.net

REGION 4 - ACADIA DISTRICT KA5LMZ

DEC - Jaclyn L Price,

ACAD	Acadia	Jim Bookter, N5NVP	bookter@bellsouth.net
EVNG	Evangeline	VACANT	
IBRA	Iberia	VACANT	
LAFT	Lafayette	Ed Roy, WA5TNK	edroy@edroy.com
STLN	St. Landry	VACANT	
STMT	St. Martin	VACANT	
STMY	St. Mary	Jackie Price, KA5LMZ	jelprice@atvci.net

VMRL	Vermilion	Arnold Lemaire, KE5JXC	Itsinc@kaplantel.net
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REGION 5 - SOUTH WEST DISTRICT KC5FGO	DEC - Ronald K Phelps,
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ALLN	Allen	Earl Morrow, W5ELM	w5elm@yahoo.com
BEAU	Beauregard	Alan Farquhar, W5MVP	afarquhar@wnonline.net
CALC	Calcasieu	Doug Phelps, WB5OZA	cajungeese@yahoo.com
CAMN	Cameron	Burt N Sammis, AF5AA	af5aa@camtel.net
JFDV	Jeff Davis	David Le Jeune, K5WNV	lejeuned@centurytel.net

REGION 6 - CENTRAL DISTRICT KD5IGG	DEC - James E Molan,
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AVLS	Avoyelles	Harold E Laughlin, KD5JZC	kd5jzc@arrl.net
CATL	Catahoula	VACANT	
CNCD	Concordia	Everette Thompson, N5AVN	eet1947@yahoo.com
GRNT	Grant	Charles E Standlee, AC5PW	ac5pw@arrl.net
LASL	LaSalle	VACANT	
NTCH	Natchitoches	VACANT	
RAPD	Rapides	Scott Wren, KD5DFL	kd5df@cox-internet.com
SABN	Sabine	Cecil G. Harper, WD5CQG	wd5cqg@NDemand.com
VRNN	Vernon	Jerry Keeton, WB5LHD	jkboxk@wildblue.net
WINN	Winn	VACANT	

REGION 7 - NORTH WEST DISTRICT KL7EMH	DEC - Edwin Higginbotham,
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BNVL	Bienville	Wayne Hatfield, KD5JJP	kd5jjp@hotmail.com
BSSR	Bossier	James O Rawls, KG5ZY	KG5ZY@bellsouth.net
CADO	Caddo	James O Rawls, KG5ZY	KG5ZY@bellsouth.net
CLBN	Claiborne	Wayne Hatfield, KD5JJP	kd5jjp@hotmail.com
DSTO	DeSoto	David L Armstrong, AA5HY	aa5hy@arrl.net
RDRV	Red River	Jerry L Glover, KD5IUZ	jlglover@cp-tel.net
WBST	Webster	VACANT	

REGION 8 - NORTH EAST DISTRICT KA5JNL	DEC - William M Redmond,
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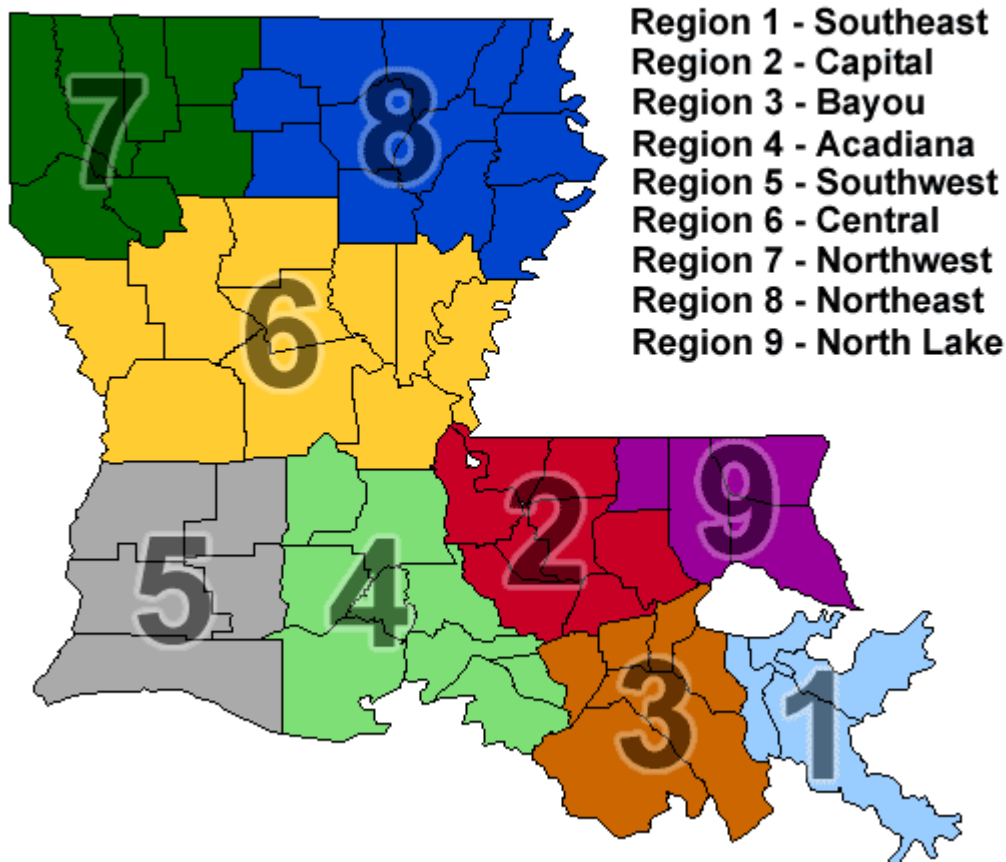
CALD	Caldwell	Billy J. Gore, KD5ETB	bjg_1955@bellsouth.net
ECRL	E. Carroll	VACANT	
FRNK	Franklin	Larry R Laborde, N5ASA	n5asa@arrl.net
JAXN	Jackson	VACANT	
LNCN	Lincoln	Jerry Darnell, AD5AQ	ad5aq@arrl.net

MDSN	Madison	VACANT	
MRHS	Morehouse	Jeff Barnhill, KB5SAR	kb5sar@arrl.net
OUCT	Ouachita	David Gore, W5DSG	w5dsg@arrl.net
RICH	Richland	Melinda Hudspeth, N5MEL	melhudspeth@starband.net
TNSA	Tensas	VACANT	
UNON	Union	William M (Mack) Redmond, KA5JNL	ka5jnl2@bayou.com
WCRL	W. Carroll	VACANT	

REGION 9 - NORTH LAKE DISTRICT **DEC - James M Coleman III, AI5B**

STHL	St. Helena	VACANT	
STTM	St. Tammany	Marcus Bell, N5PSL	captmo@bellsouth.net
TNGP	Tangipahoa	Forrest Clark, KD5PKS	kd5pks@arrl.net
WASH	Washington	James M Coleman III, AI5B	ai5b@arrl.net

Louisiana ARES Districts



APPENDIX II

Memorandum of Understanding between the Louisiana, Mississippi, and South Texas Sections of The American Radio Relay League

Purpose: Recognizing that the United States Gulf Coast is subject to catastrophic storm events, particularly hurricanes and tornadoes, and that amateur radio operators are frequently asked to assist with emergency communications during these storm events, this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been prepared to establish a framework for cooperation between the Louisiana (LA), Mississippi (MS), and South Texas (STX) Sections of the American Radio Relay League (ARRL). During storm events amateur radio operators in an impacted area often cannot participate in emergency operations at the section level because they must attend to family and local problem areas. Thus, the availability of emergency coordinators, experienced net control stations, traffic handlers, etc. can be at a premium in a given section. In order to mitigate this potential problem area and to take advantage of the expertise of nearby amateurs, who are not in the impacted area, the Louisiana, Mississippi, and South Texas Sections agree through signature of their respective Section Managers (SM's) to the following:

- (a) Upon being made aware of an imminent storm event, the three Section Managers will determine which section is the most likely to sustain the major impact of the storm event. This SM will contact the Federal Communications Commission and make arrangements for frequencies to be set aside for emergency as well as Health and Welfare Communications. Suggested frequencies are: Emergency Net – 7285 day and 3873 night and Health and Welfare – 7290 day and 3935 night. The transition time between bands will be established by the SM depending upon band conditions.
- (b) The SM of the impacted area will be responsible for organizing and staffing an emergency net possibly delegating some duties to his Section Traffic Manager (STM) or to SM's or STM's in the least impacted sections. In addition, he will make tactical decisions related to amateur participation in the emergency situation in consultation with the other SM's, as necessary.
- (c) One of the remaining two SM's will organize and staff a Health and Welfare Net possibly delegating some duties to his Section Traffic Manager (STM) or an STM in one of the least impacted sections.
- (d) The SM's of the two least impacted Sections will coordinate with the Section Emergency Coordinators in their respective Sections to render assistance, as needed.
- (e) The provisions of this MOU may be modified at any time contingent upon the signatures of the current SM's of the Louisiana, Mississippi, and South Texas Sections.

Mickey D. Cox K5MC
Section Manager
Louisiana

Malcolm P. Keown W5XX
Section Manager
Mississippi

E. Ray Taylor N5NAV
Section Manager
South Texas

APPENDIX III

Memorandum of Understanding

between the

Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Tennessee Sections

in the Delta Division

of

The American Radio Relay League

Purpose: Recognizing that the south-central region of the United States is subject to large scale disaster events and that amateur radio operators are frequently asked to assist with emergency communications during such events, this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been prepared to establish a framework for cooperation between the Arkansas (AR), Louisiana (LA), Mississippi (MS), and Tennessee (TN) Sections in the Delta Division of the American Radio Relay League (ARRL).

During natural and man-made disaster events, amateur radio operators in an impacted area often cannot participate in emergency operations at the section level because they must attend to family and local problem areas. Thus, the availability of emergency coordinators, experienced net control stations, traffic handlers, etc., can be at a premium in a given section.

In order to mitigate this potential problem and to take advantage of the expertise of nearby amateurs not in the impacted area, the AR LA, MS, and TN Sections agree through signature of their respective Section Managers (SM's) to the following:

(a) The SM of the section that is anticipated to be the most impacted by the disaster event will be the SM Coordinator. The selection of the SM Coordinator will be by mutual agreement of the four Section Managers. The SM Coordinator will be responsible for organizing and staffing a HF tactical phone emergency net (see Addendum). This responsibility most likely will be delegated to someone, who will act as Net Manager. Net frequencies will be 7275 KHz (daytime) and 3890 KHz (nighttime). The SM Coordinator will inform ARRL Headquarters of the emergency net's activation. The actual start time of the net will be determined by mutual consent of the four Section Managers based on available information. In the event the SM Coordinator is not available, the Section Emergency Coordinator will assume coordination responsibilities.

(b) If the emergency traffic within a given section is very heavy during the disaster event, the SM Coordinator may request that the HF phone net in the section also be activated to handle the overload with appropriate liaison between the nets (see Addendum for section emergency operation frequencies).

(c) In the case of wide area storm events (such as hurricanes and ice storms), organizing and staffing the emergency net should start well in advance of the storm's arrival. Since many potential disasters can occur with little or no warning, each section will establish and periodically update rosters of net control station volunteers, rapid response teams, etc.

(d) The SM Coordinator will contact the Net Managers of RN5 and DRN5 to make arrangements for handling health/welfare traffic, if deemed necessary, and to ensure that an NTS Liaison will be on the tactical net frequencies to move off H/W traffic, as necessary. The managers of independent traffic nets may also be contacted, if the anticipated traffic load warrants. The SM Coordinator may declare a moratorium on inbound health/welfare traffic contingent on capability to deliver messages in a timely manner to the addressees in the impacted area. When conditions improve such that messages can be delivered, the moratorium will be lifted.

(e) Operational decisions made by the SM Coordinator relating to amateur participation in the emergency situation should be made in consultation with the other SMs, as necessary

(f) The SMs of the three least impacted Sections will coordinate with the SECs and STM's in their respective Sections to render assistance, as needed.

(g) The provisions of this MOU may be modified at any time contingent upon the signatures of the current SM's of the AR, LA, MS, and TN Sections.

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Notes:

1. The recommended contact person at ARRL HQ is Steve Ewald at (860) 594-0265.
2. Traffic handlers (NTS or independent) not directly involved in emergency communications are encouraged to solicit health and welfare traffic by visiting shelters in their affected area.

Addendum: Sample Net Control Preamble

Calling the Delta ARES Emergency Net (repeat). This net has been activated to provide emergency communications in response to (name of disaster event). This is (call sign) in (QTH) net control for this two-hour tour of duty. This is a directed net for liaison stations from emergency response agencies, stations with high priority traffic, or stations in the affected storm event area with information or inquiries. Please transmit only when requested to do so. If you want to ragchew please move off frequency

This net will handle emergency and priority traffic only. All health and welfare and routine traffic should be routed via the National Traffic System. If you have health and welfare traffic, an NTS liaison station on frequency will be glad to move you off and take your traffic. (Only outbound Health/Welfare traffic will be handled if there is a moratorium on inbound traffic). During periods when the Net Control Station is not transmitting, please keep the frequency clear.

The sequence for stations checking into this net will be as follows:

Any station with emergency traffic

Any station with priority traffic

Any station with weather related traffic or information

NTS Liaison Station (if no Liaison is on frequency, refer queries to active section or H/W nets)

Check-ins from emergency response agency stations in the following order:

State, city, county, or parish EOC Stations

National Weather Service Stations

Red Cross or Salvation Army Stations

Other Emergency Response Agency Stations

Stations in the affected storm event area with information or inquiries

We will now take check-ins:

Is there any station with emergency traffic?

Is there any station with priority traffic?

Is there any station with weather-related traffic or information?

Do we have an NTS Liaison Station on frequency?

Are there check-ins from emergency response agency stations?

State, city, county, or parish EOC Stations

National Weather Service Stations

Red Cross or Salvation Army Stations

Other Emergency Response Agency Stations

Are there stations in the affected storm event area with information or inquiries?

Short Form of Net Protocol

The above net protocol is the long form which will be appropriate to use at the beginning of the two-hour shift. After this a shorten form may be used as follows:

This is (call) net control for the Delta ARES Emergency Net. This is a directed net for liaison stations from emergency response agencies, stations with high priority traffic, or stations in the affected storm event area with information or inquiries. Please transmit only when requested to do so.

This net will handle emergency and priority traffic only. All health and welfare and routine traffic should be routed via the National Traffic System. If you have health and welfare traffic, an NTS liaison station on frequency will be glad to move you off and take your traffic. (Only outbound Health/Welfare traffic will be handled if there is a moratorium on inbound traffic). During periods when the Net Control Station is not transmitting, please keep the frequency clear.

We will now take check-ins:

Is there any station with emergency, priority, or weather-related traffic or information?

Are there check-ins from emergency response agency stations?

Are there stations in the affected storm event area with information or inquiries?

NCS Notes:

The Net Protocol should be read every 5 minutes as time and traffic load permit. There will be periods of silence on this frequency, but this is necessary to keep the frequency open for emergency and priority traffic.

Be sure to keep a list of your checkins, so you can pass this information on to the next NC8. He can then call the roll to see who is still on frequency.

Frequencies will be 7275 (daytime) and 3890 (nighttime). Frequency changes will be made at the discretion of the Net Control Station depending on propagation conditions.

(Call of Net Manager) is coordinating the NCS Schedule. If you need to contact him, his email is (email address) or (telephone number).

Section Emergency Operation Frequencies

Arkansas: 3987.5 (SSB), 7260 (S8B), 3592 (CW), 146.52 (VHF), and 3626.9 (Winlink)

Louisiana: 3910 (88B), 3573 (CW), 3595.9 and 7079.9 (Digital)

Mississippi: 3862 (88B), 3570 (CW)

Tennessee: 3980 (SSB), 3562 (CW)

APPENDIX IV

OPERATING FREQUENCIES - LOUISIANA

CW watch/guard frequencies for emergency, priority, and welfare traffic 3573 kHz/nighttime and 7045 kHz/daytime. Secondary frequencies are 3579 kHz/nighttime and 7057 kHz/daytime when needed.

LA CW Net (LCW): 35673 kHz at 6:30 pm and 10:00 pm daily (local time, year round)

LA Traffic Net (LTN): 3910 kHz at 6:00 pm daily (local time, year round)

HF SSB Emergency Net: 3873 kHz/nighttime and 7285 kHz/daytime if LA/MS/STX MOU is invoked as described in Appendix II

HF SSB Emergency Net: 3890 kHz/nighttime and 7275 kHz/daytime if AR/LA/MS/TN MOU is invoked as described in Appendix III

HF PACTOR: The simplex LSB mark point-to-point frequencies will be 3630.0/nighttime and 7080.0/daytime (the equivalent center frequencies are 3595629.9 and 7079.9, respectively) for utilization inside the state.

VHF Packet (TELPAC/Winlink 2000): 145.010 MHz

APRS: 144.390 MHz

VHF FM simplex: 146.520 MHz (national simplex frequency) used for initial contact with incoming mobiles during an event. Once contact has been established, information could be given as to the active repeater frequencies. Many coming into the area do not know which repeater is active or the PL information, etc.

OPERATING FREQUENCIES – LOUISIANA REGION 1
South East District

Frequency	PL Tone	Location	Comments	
444.200	114.8	Metairie	Primary-W5UK-GNO ARC Repeater	
444.700	114.8	NOLA	WB5HVV	2ndary UHF repr freq-LINKED
146.775-	114.8	NOLA	2ndary Freq-W5MCC-NO VHF Repeater	
146.860	114.8	NOLA	Primary-W5MCC-NO VHF Club Repeater	
145.370	114.8	Metairie	W5GAD-Hosp Net-Jefferson ARC Repr	
146.940	114.8	Marrero	W5ABD	2ndary Freq-for Hospital Use
146.520	-	n/a	Simplex-Line of Sight Operation. No rptr.	
147.225	107	Gonzales	State EOC-BR	
7.255+-10		Daytime	St of LA & neighboring states	
3.855+-10		Nighttime	St of LA & neighboring states	
444.925+			D STAR digital Repeater-Ochsner Med Ctr	Voice
146.925-			Digital Repeater with Emer Pwr-Internet Conn	Voice
1251.0000			Installed	Data
1285.0000			Installed	Voice
147.27			NOAA Slidell	

OPERATING FREQUENCIES – LOUISIANA REGION 5
South West District

Frequency	PL Tone	Location	Coverage/Comments
146.730	173.8		
145.210	103.5		
145.350	103.5		
444.300	88.5		
144.390			Digipeater w5bii APRS
145.010			Packet Digipeater wa5lqz -10 LCH with telpac gateway during emergencies

**OPERATING FREQUENCIES – LOUISIANA REGION 9
North Lake District**

Tangipahoa Parish

Frequency	PL Tone	Location	Coverage/Comments
147.000	none	Tickfaw	SELARC rptr-most of Tang & E/W surr parishes
145.010	1200BD	Digipeaters Hammond, Ponchatoula (Amite soon)	
		RMS telpac gateways in Abita Springs, Ponchatoula (Amite soon)	

St Tammany Parish

Frequency	PL Tone	Location	Coverage/Comments
444.425	114.8	Slidell	City of Slidell EOC (Ben Morris KE5PCZ)
146.715	none	Mandeville	W5NJJ - St Tammany EOC
147.270	114.8	Lacombe	W5SLA-Ozone Club-NWS, NS hosp's** & Slidell EOC
			**incl NS Reg Med Ct, Slidell Mem Hosp & Lacombe Heart Hosp

Washington Parish

Frequency	PL Tone	Location	Coverage/Comments
145.430	107.2	Sheridan	Washington Parish