Amateur Radio Emergency and Public Safety Communications
Terminology

• Communications Emergency – Normal lines of communication are down or overloaded, Amateur Radio can help until normal conditions are restored

• Emergency – localized event that threatens life and property, usually handled by first responders (police, fire, emergency medical), rarely results in a communications emergency

• Disaster – large scale event that usually goes beyond the capability of first responders, often results in a communications emergency, disaster response volunteers usually involved

• Public Service – Any Amateur Radio support for a local community, can include emergency and disaster communications as well as communications support for events such as parades, marathons, festivals, etc.
Terminology

• Served Agency – Any agency or organization that Amateur Radio operators provide communications for, can be governmental or non-governmental, examples include emergency management, Red Cross, National Weather Service, and fire service.
History

• 1913 Ohio/Michigan flood
• 1925 Army MARS
• 1935 Amateur Radio Emergency Service
• 1941-1945 WERS
• 2001 9/11
• 2005 Hurricane Katrina
• 2010 Haiti Earthquake
EmComm Organizations

- ARES – Amateur Radio Emergency Service
- MARS – Military Auxiliary Radio Service
- RACES – Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service
- SATERN – Salvation Army
- WX4NHC – National Hurricane Center
- VOIP WX Net – NHC/NWS support
- NTS – National Traffic System
ARES

- About 40,000 participants nationwide
- Organized locally
- Active at state level
- ARES E-Letter and ARRL_EmComm Twitter feed
- Works with local served agencies
What we do...

- Tornadoes
- Floods
- Hurricanes
- Wildfires
- Earthquakes
- Community Events
- Power Outages
ARES Organization

• Emergency Coordinator – local volunteer appointed to coordinate ARES activities, typically covers a county or city

• District Emergency Coordinator – oversees activities of EC’s, several counties or large metro area

• Section Emergency Coordinator – oversees ARES programs within their Section, appointed by and works with Section Manager
National Level - ARRL

• Emergency Preparedness Program
• Field Services
• Ham Aid
• Web Resources
• Education and Training
• Publications
International EmComm

• Support for large catastrophic events
• IARU
• Global Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Conference