

Memorandum of Understanding
between
Western Indiana Radio Emergency Services (W.I.R.E.S.)
and
Tippecanoe County Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES)
August 31, 2008

Forward

The American Radio Relay League, Inc., (ARRL) is a noncommercial membership organization of radio amateurs, organized for the promotion of interest in Amateur Radio communication and experimentation, for the establishment of networks to provide communications in the event of disasters or other emergencies, for the advancement of the radio art and of the public welfare, for the representation of the radio amateur in legislative matters, and the maintenance of fraternalism and a high standard of conduct.

A primary responsibility of the Amateur Radio Service, as established by the Federal Communications Commission, is the rendering of public service communications for the general public, particularly in times of emergency. Using Amateur Radio volunteers operating in the amateur frequency bands, the ARRL has been serving the public, both directly and through government and relief agencies, for more than fifty years. To that end, the League created the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES). ARES is a major component of the ARRL's public service field organization of volunteer Radio Amateurs.

The Western Indiana Radio Emergency Services (W.I.R.E.S.) is a non-profit entity, comprised of a group of individuals with a common interest in promoting the use of the amateur radio spectrum, and owns and operates an amateur radio repeater system to help provide emergency communications for the community.

1. Purpose

The purpose of this document is to state the terms of understanding between Tippecanoe County ARES and Western Indiana Radio Emergency Services (W.I.R.E.S.). This document will serve as a broad framework within which volunteer ARES personnel will coordinate amateur radio emergency communications network resources with W.I.R.E.S. for the use of their repeater system for disaster relief communications. Included is the use of the W.I.R.E.S. repeater system for special events and training activities conducted by Tippecanoe County ARES.

2. Definition of a Disaster

A disaster is an occurrence such as a tornado, violent storm, flood, earthquake, blizzard, fire, explosion, building collapse, commercial transportation accident, or other situation that causes human suffering, or causes human needs that the victims cannot alleviate without assistance.

3. Recognition

W.I.R.E.S. recognizes that the extensive volunteer Field Organization of the ARRL, represented by Tippecanoe County ARES, is the official ARRL representative to Served Agencies within Tippecanoe County for providing aid in maintaining the continuity of communications during disasters, when normal communications facilities are disrupted or overloaded.

Tippecanoe County ARES recognizes W.I.R.E.S. as an amateur radio organization with the objectives of promoting interest in amateur radio and public service, the advancement of the radio art, and the promotion of high standards of conduct among radio amateurs. It is also the desire of W.I.R.E.S. to support the objectives of Tippecanoe County ARES through the use of its repeater system in support of disaster communications when normal communications facilities are disrupted or overloaded, or needs requiring communications are not readily available via other means.

4. Organization of W.I.R.E.S.

W.I.R.E.S. owns and operates a repeater on 147.135 MHz (input on 147.735 MHz, 88.5 Hz CTCSS) and is supported through the efforts and contributions of its participating amateur radio operators, and with the cooperation of WLFI-TV in providing space and electrical power.

5. Organization of the ARRL and ARES

The ARRL is organized in relevant part, for the promotion of interest in Amateur Radio communication and experimentation; the establishment of Amateur Radio networks to provide electronic communications in the event of disasters or other emergencies; the furtherance of the public welfare; the advancement of the radio art; the fostering and promotion of noncommercial intercommunication by electronic means throughout the world; and for related purposes. It is governed by a Board of Directors composed of 15 persons who are elected on a regional basis by the membership. Its headquarters is located in Newington, Connecticut. Since 1914, the ARRL has been the standard-bearer in amateur radio affairs throughout the United States. The ARRL Field Organization covers the United States and U.S. territories. The field organization is administered by elected Section Managers in the ARRL Sections (a section is an ARRL-created political boundary roughly equivalent to states or portions thereof). Emergency communications are provided by the ARRL-sponsored Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES).

Organized under the Section Manager and directed by a Section Emergency Coordinator, the ARES field organization includes District Emergency Coordinators and local Emergency Coordinators, who provide leadership and training for the thousands of ARES members. The Section Manager for Indiana has appointed an Emergency Coordinator to provide support for Tippecanoe County Indiana and its municipalities.

6. Method of Cooperation

W.I.R.E.S. agrees to allow Tippecanoe County ARES to assume operational control of the W.I.R.E.S. repeater system during times requiring disaster communications as defined in Section 2, for the purpose of conducting directed nets in support of such disaster communications requirements. Included is the operational control of the W.I.R.E.S. repeater system for special events and training activities conducted by Tippecanoe County ARES.

Tippecanoe County ARES will cooperate in maintaining such systems during the disaster period by providing technical assistance. If material resources are required, Tippecanoe County ARES will contact a current officer of W.I.R.E.S. to request and coordinate assistance in procuring such logistical support.

For W.I.R.E.S.:

Name: Stephen M. Parker, WR9A
Title: President, Western Indiana Radio
Emergency Services (W.I.R.E.S.)
Date: 31 AUG 2008
Signed: 31 AUG 2008

For Tippecanoe County ARES:

Name: R. Bruce Stewart, N9GKE
Title: Emergency Coordinator, Tippecanoe
County ARES
Date: 31 AUG 2008
Signed: 31 AUG 2008