

**Memorandum of Understanding**  
**Gwinnett County Office of Emergency Management**  
**and**  
**Gwinnett Amateur Radio Emergency Service**

**Introduction**

The Gwinnett County Georgia Amateur Radio Emergency Service (Gwinnett ARES) is the local representative of the American Radio Relay League (ARRL) national structure and represents those Amateur Radio operators in Gwinnett County with an interest in providing communication services support to agencies serving the public during emergency situations. Gwinnett ARES volunteers are licensed by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC).

The Gwinnett County Office of Emergency Management (OEM) is a unit of the Gwinnett County Police Department whose mission is to administer a community-wide comprehensive emergency management program in partnership with all departments, agencies, operating units, administrations and neighboring jurisdictions to save lives, protect property and safeguard the environment.

**Purpose**

The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is to state the terms of understanding between the Gwinnett ARES and the Gwinnett County OEM. This document will serve as a broad framework within which volunteer Gwinnett ARES members will coordinate Amateur Radio emergency communications network resources and services with the Gwinnett County OEM.

**Method of Cooperation**

Gwinnett County OEM recognizes that Gwinnett ARES, representing the volunteer Field Organization of the ARRL, is the official ARRL representative to the Gwinnett County OEM for providing aid in maintaining the continuity of communications during disasters, when normal communication facilities are disrupted or overloaded through the use of its volunteers and their communication resources.

The Gwinnett ARES recognizes the Gwinnett County OEM's legal authority to coordinate the emergency response of public and private agencies and organizations during emergency and disaster situations within Gwinnett County. It is responsible for assigning resources required to support all functions required to manage and resolve the event. Gwinnett County OEM will:

- Provide training opportunities appropriate for volunteer participants in activities of Gwinnett OEM in the role described above.
- Work with Gwinnett ARES to define specific missions to perform during disaster situations.
- Coordinate access for volunteer personnel with Gwinnett County directed security and emergency services personnel for access into areas where communications support by ARES has been requested.

Gwinnett ARES will:

- Train its members in the conduct of emergency communications following Gwinnett County OEM and ARRL training guidelines.
- Maintain a roster of trained volunteers that may be called upon in the time of disaster.
- Provide trained communicators and equipment to augment communications needs during a disaster at the request of Gwinnett County OEM.
- Work with Gwinnett County OEM personnel to identify missions within the disaster planning of Gwinnett County and within the capabilities of Gwinnett ARES.
- Support the National Weather Service SKYWARN spotter program through the ARES/Georgia Emergency Management Agency relationship with the National Weather Service and provide information to Gwinnett County OEM personnel of observed damage.
- Provide liaison personnel to coordinate with Gwinnett County OEM personnel and to function in the Gwinnett County Emergency Operations Center when tasked during disaster situations.

### Workers' Compensation

Workers' Compensation insurance is not available for individuals who are members of Gwinnett ARES volunteering their services under the terms of this MOU.

**For Gwinnett County:**

Name:

A.A. Ayen

Title:

Chief of Police

Date:

7-1-2016

**For Gwinnett ARES:**

Name:

Hal Z. Galvin

Title:

Emergency Coordinator

Date:

6/28/2016