

Memoranda of Understanding IHA /ARRL (1/28/2014)

FOREWARD

The Iowa Hospital Association (IHA) is a volunteer organization that provides representation and data regarding Iowa Hospitals and Health Systems.

The Iowa Section of the Amateur Radio Relay League (ARRL) is a non-commercial association of radio amateurs bonded together for the promotion of interest in Amateur Radio communications and experimentation for the advancement of the radio art and of the public welfare. A goal to benefit area hospitals and healthcare agencies in the event of a disaster.

By organizing and coordinating Amateur Radio operators the ARRL has been serving the general public for more than 75 years. In 1935 the ARRL created the Amateur Radio Emergency Corps (now called the Amateur Radio Emergency Service - ARES). In 1949 the ARRL created the National Traffic System (NTS). The ARES together with the NTS comprise the public service field organization of volunteer radio amateurs. The Iowa Section is divided into six districts, and then divided into the ninety-nine counties. This ARRL field organization functions in the public service, especially in times of emergency when the resources of radio amateurs may be the most survivable communications available.

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this document is to state the terms of a mutual agreement between the Iowa Section ARES and the IHA that will serve as a broad framework within which volunteer personnel of the ARES may coordinate their facilities and equipment with the IHA members and agencies for disaster communications.

II. DEFINITION OF DISASTER

A disaster is either a natural or man-made occurrence that causes human suffering or human need that victims cannot alleviate without assistance and which rapidly depletes the resources of the responding agencies involved. This may include power failures, local phone outages (including cell phone disruption) and switchgear failures.

III. METHOD OF COOPERATION

In order for the emergency communications facilities of the ARES to be coordinated and utilized to the fullest advantage during disasters, IHA and ARES agree to do the following:

- A. The ARES agrees to supply the IHA facilities with lists of emergency coordinators on a periodic basis. IHA agrees to supply ARES with pertinent information and points of contacts from various facilities.

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- B. Hospital disaster preparedness and relief committees should include representatives from local ARES organizations.
 - C. Detailed operating plans for the utilization of communications facilities of the Amateur Radio service should be developed with hospitals by ARES local area coordinators.
 - D. ARES and IHA will distribute copies of this MOU through its field structure, and make copies available to other organizations which may have an active interest in disaster operations.
 - E. When a disaster occurs requiring the use of amateur radio communication, ARES will respond with fixed, mobile and portable emergency equipment. The hospital will provide sufficient space for Amateur Radio operators and equipment.
 - F. Maintaining the continuity of communications for the duration of the emergency period or until normal communications channels are substantially restored.
 - G. The responsibility of the Amateur Radio operator will be limited to communications.

IV. Implementation

This memorandum shall take effect upon its signing by authorized representatives of the Iowa ARES, The ARRL Iowa Section Manager and representatives of the IHA. The term of this MOU is for five (5) years.

This memorandum may be amended by mutual agreement of both parties, and it is understood by both parties that at any time this Memorandum of Understanding may be terminated by written notification from either party to the other. Six months prior to termination, the parties shall meet to review the progress and success of the MOU and determine whether it shall be extended for an additional five years. In no event shall any single extension of this MOU be for a term exceeding five years.

V. Miscellaneous

This Memorandum of Understanding does not create a partnership or a joint venture, and neither party has the authority to bind the other.

Date: January 28, 2014

Alan J. Gioia Name

Senior Vice President, IHA Title

Date _____

_____ Name

_____ Title

Date January 28, 2014

Richard D. Bingham, W4BQ

ARRL Section Emergency Coordinator

Date 1/28/2014

Sam Coffey, K4CY

ARRL Section Manager