

**Operating Plan  
Lake County Florida Amateur Radio Emergency Services  
(Abstract from MOU)**

**Foreword:**

The Lake County Department of Public Safety, Division of Emergency Management (EM), is charged with the responsibility of protecting citizens and property from natural and unnatural disastrous incidents. This responsibility becomes increasingly difficult when commercial wired, wireless, and public safety communication is overloaded or disrupted.

The primary purpose of the Amateur Radio Service, as defined by Part 97 of Federal Communications Commission law, is the rendering of public service communications for the general public in times of emergency, when established communications systems are not available or seriously diminished. Of secondary significance is the experimentation and advancement of the radio art for the public welfare.

Lake County Amateur Radio Emergency Services (LCARES) is an operating unit of Lake Amateur Radio Association, Inc., a non-profit corporation. The unit is organized to provide emergency communications by federally licensed volunteer radio operators and technicians. Training in emergency communications (EMCOMM) and Incident Command Systems (ICS) is a requirement of all LCARES members.

LCARES is an integral unit of Amateur Radio Emergency Services, ARES®, a trademark of the American Radio Relay League, Inc. (ARRL), which provides the management framework for county, regional, and statewide emergency communications. All communications will use the current Northern Florida Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Plan as a guide.

**Plan:**

Lake County EM and LCARES share the common directive of providing contingency planning, communications, and operational services as needed to protect life and property before, during, and after an incident. This is accomplished by LCARES participation on the EM staff as part of the unified command structure of ICS in accordance with the County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan ( [http://www.lakegovernment.com/pdfs/Public\\_Safety/Emergency\\_Management/CEMP\\_BasicPlan.pdf](http://www.lakegovernment.com/pdfs/Public_Safety/Emergency_Management/CEMP_BasicPlan.pdf) )

LCARES operates and maintains a system of publicly and privately owned communications assets comprised of tactical voice, text based, position tracking, and e-mail over radio channels and frequency bands covering all of Lake County, the State of Florida, and beyond. Since our members are licensed to adapt radio installations, these systems are capable of operating under adverse conditions. Services will be activated at the Emergency Operations Center, Public Shelters, Logistic Distribution Points, or at locations specified by the Emergency Support Function (ESF-2) communications manager.

LCARES may be activated by the Incident Commander or designee via a Reverse 911 call up, direct notification to LCARES County Liaison Person, or by telephone to the Emergency Coordinator or any listed Assistant Emergency Coordinator. This will trigger the activation of the LCARES radio network(s) per frequency and mode listing in effect at [www.n4fla.org](http://www.n4fla.org) .

Of the two field deployable amateur radio organizations, ARES® and Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Services (RACES), we choose ARES® due to its suitability for local jurisdictions, strength of the national and statewide organization, unlimited training opportunities, and maximum frequency interoperability. If mandated by a government jurisdiction we can switch over to RACES if necessary. The organization chart of LCARES parallels the intent of ICS-700, that is, the Emergency Coordinator may have up to seven subordinate positions, which have similar titles and functions of the County EM organization. (See [www.n4fla.org](http://www.n4fla.org) for current names)