# AMATEUR RADIO EMERGENCY SERVICE

The Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) is an unincorporated association of federally licensed radio operators who have voluntarily offered their services and equipment for communications duty in public service when disaster strikes, pursuant to Federal Communications Rule 97.1(a).

The Augusta County leadership within ARES is exercised by the Emergency Coordinator who appoints Assistant Emergency Coordinators, as necessary, to assist in the administration and operation of ARES throughout the county. The ARES Emergency Coordinator for Augusta County reports to the South Piedmont Emergency Coordinator who, in turn, reports to the Virginia Section Emergency Coordinator.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Commonwealth of Virginia Department of Emergency Management and the Amateur Radio Emergency Service for the Radio Amateur Emergency Civil Service was signed on June 1, 1991, and remains in effect.

Upon notification by the EOC Dispatch or other appropriate Augusta County official, the Augusta County ARES Emergency Coordinator will alert his ARES members, task organize his personnel and communications resources, and report immediately to the Emergency Command Center or other location as directed. Upon reporting to the responsible Augusta County official directing activation, the ARES Emergency Coordinator shall receive tasking from that official until termination of the emergency. Should the Virginia Department of Emergency Management or higher authority activate the Radio Amateur Civil Emergency (RACES) as specified in the Code of Virginia, Section 44-146.16, the ARES members will then assume the authorizations and responsibilities as defined under the FCC rules and regulations.

Augusta County ARES members are prepared to provide emergency backup radio communications, sustained by their own emergency backup power, from any location within Augusta County to other local, state, and national locations, should the emergency warrant. Emergency backup radio communications provided by Augusta County ARES members include equipment utilizing a wide variety of media and frequencies that are capable of passing voice and/or record traffic, to include data processing, in order to support the telecommunications requirements of the Emergency Command Center or other local officials.

It shall be the responsibility of the Augusta County ARES Emergency Coordinator to ensure that personnel and communications resources assigned to his area remain fully prepared to support any of the functional operations phases delineated in Annex B. He shall keep the Emergency Command Center fully advised of the state of readiness of ARES in Augusta County.