

Michael J. Schulz

From: Burton, Traci [Traci.Burton@illinois.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2010 9:58 AM
To: mjschulz@mjschulz.com
Subject: Illinois RACES Plan
Attachments: Illinois RACES Plan.doc

Mr. Schulz:

This letter is regarding your request made under the Illinois Freedom of Information Act for information regarding any and all previous versions of the Illinois RACES Plan and any and all Memorandums of Understanding which were reported to have been considered by legal counsel for the IEMA and subsequently rejected or were declined to be entered into relative to the Illinois amateur radio community's interaction with IEMA.

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ILLINOIS RACES PLAN

14 SEP 2009

This document outlines a Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) program for the State of Illinois.

The Director of the Illinois Emergency Management Agency will appoint a qualified individual to serve as the volunteer **State RACES Officer (SRO)**. This individual will serve as the single point of contact between IEMA and the Illinois amateur radio community.

SRO

- ❑ The **SRO** will appoint a volunteer **Deputy State RACES Officer (DSRO)** to ensure continuity of command and control in the event of unavailability of the **SRO**.
- ❑ The **SRO** will identify and appoint six qualified amateur radio operators to staff the State EOC as communicators when RACES has been activated for an emergency or exercise event. Three of these individuals will be considered Primary operators and three will be considered as secondary or alternate operators.
- ❑ The **SRO** will appoint eight volunteer **Regional RACES Officers (RRO)**, one for each of the IEMA Regions.
- ❑ The **SRO** will establish suitable training criteria for **RRO's** and SEOC RACES Operators. Additionally, the **SRO** will make recommendations to county/city emergency managers regarding suitable training courses for all enrolled volunteer Illinois RACES operators.
- ❑ The **SRO** will develop and distribute a State RACES Plan detailing RACES operations and logistics.
- ❑ The **SRO's** point of contact at IEMA will be ??

RRO's

Each **RRO** will

- ❑ provide emergency or exercise amateur radio communications assistance to the IEMA Region Coordinator as needed
- ❑ serve as the amateur radio point of contact between the IEMA Region Coordinator and the county RACES programs in that region
- ❑ work with local emergency managers to recruit and train suitable County/City RACES Officers (**CRO**)

CRO's

In each Illinois county (or city, in the case of those communities providing their own emergency management agencies), the emergency manager wishing to participate in the Illinois RACES program shall be responsible to identify and appoint a suitably trained amateur radio operator holding a valid General or higher class FCC-issued amateur radio license, as the County (or city) RACES Officer (**CRO**).

The **CRO** will

- ❑ provide RACES communications services in times of emergency or drills to his/her county/city emergency management agency
- ❑ be responsible to enroll and manage volunteer amateur radio operators in the county RACES organization in accordance with the credentialing and membership requirements of the respective county/city emergency management agency.

RACES Activation

- ❑ The SEOC RACES station will be activated only by the Director of IEMA or his designee.
- ❑ Region RACES stations will be activated only by the Director of IEMA or his designee.
- ❑ County/city RACES groups will be activated only by the responsible county/city emergency manager.

Under no circumstances will RACES stations self-activate.

RACES reporting chain:

County/city RACES members communicate with **CRO's**
CRO's communicate with their **RRO** and other **CRO's**, as the situation demands
RRO's communicate with the SEOC

Credentials

The **SRO**, **DSRO**, and **RRO's** will be provided with suitable credentials by IEMA. **CRO's** and RACES members will be provided suitable credentials by their respective emergency management agency

Emergency Communications Exercises

The **SRO** will provide the schedule and details of regular emergency communications exercises designed to ensure that all RACES operators have adequate experience and training to perform back-up communications in the event of an emergency.

RACES/ARES® Cooperative Effort

The Amateur Radio Emergency Service® is a program of the American Radio Relay League and consists of amateur radio operators who have volunteered their time, talents, and equipment to provide emergency communications when needed. Dual membership, i.e., ARES® and RACES, for all enrolled RACES operators at all levels is strongly encouraged. The **SRO** will work closely with the ARES Section Emergency Coordinator to best provide emergency communications at local, regional and state levels.