

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Between
Paducah McCracken Co. Office of Emergency Management
And
Paducah Amateur Radio Association

PURPOSE

1. This purpose of this document is to state the terms of a mutual agreement (Memorandum of Understanding) between Paducah-McCracken Co. Office of Emergency Management, hereafter known as OEM, And Paducah Amateur Radio Association, hereafter known as PARA, that will serve as a framework within which both organizations may coordinate the development of protocols and procedures for communications in emergency and disaster situations. Each organization comprises volunteers and staff in support of their respective educational and technical programs and efforts. It is intended that this agreement will promote joint coordination and exercise of the resources of both OEM and PARA to recognize the potential and capability of individual members of both organizations to facilitate the flow of information to and from the public during disaster and emergency situations

RECOGNITION

2. OEM recognizes PARA as a public service organization of individual radio operators, which provides amateur radio preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation activities. OEM coordinates efforts with other emergency organizations including the fire, EMS, rescue, police, public works, FEMA, KyEM, KyHS, NOAA, the Salvation Army, the American Red Cross, and others involved in disaster and emergency preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation. OEM Welcomes PARA to participate in planning meetings, disaster and emergency exercises, and the local Citizens Corps Council, and to participate in National Incident Management System (NIMS) training and planning. OEM also pledges support for PARA in furthering the capabilities of their endeavors in improving public safely communications.

3. PARA recognizes OEM as the coordinating agency for both the McCracken Co. Government (Fiscal Court) and Paducah City Government (City Commission), and all emergency response and disaster relief organizations involved in preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation before, during, and in the aftermath of disasters, emergencies, and catastrophes. PARA is a noncommercial membership association of radio amateurs, organized for the promotion of interest in amateur radio communication and experimentation. PARA invites OEM to participate in their activities to further radio communications.

PRINCIPLES OF COOPERATION

4. In order that the parties may cooperate and utilize their resources from time to time to optimum mutual benefit to both parties, the following principles and methods are agreed upon:

4.1 The parties will correspond with each other and exchange certain materials and engage in certain activities in order to encourage and broaden interest, understanding, and appreciation of radio telecommunications technology and its value to the public in emergency situation.

4.2 The parties will work to establish protocols and procedures that foster safe and efficient radio services communication to help the public during emergencies and disaster relief. The parties, through these protocols and procedures, will try to eliminate duplicative or technically inferior service to the community in emergencies.

4.3 The parties will work with each other in times of emergency or disaster to meet the communications needs of the public.

4.4 The parties will generally encourage ongoing liaison with each other and urge members of both organization to develop increasing effective communications and cooperation.

4.5 OEM will purchase and maintain a VHR two-meter amateur radio repeater system, licensed in PARA's name, on the Elmdale public safety tower owned by McCracken Co. government, for use by licensed amateur radio users. This system will be a primary means of amateur radio emergency communications during emergencies, disasters, and catastrophes.

4.6 OEM agrees to enroll any and all PARA members who wish to do so, as volunteer members under the OEM Communications department, established by McCracken Co. Fiscal Court order, and provide workers compensation coverage through the Kentucky Division of Emergency Management.

5. This memorandum shall take effect upon its signing by authorized representatives of each organization. It may be amended by mutual agreement of the parties and will remain in effect until terminated by either party, upon ninety (90) days advance written notice to the other. OEM and PARA will periodically review this agreement and coordinate such revisions as may be necessary. Nothing herein will create any joint venture, partnership, or other business association, nor shall either party enter into any obligation or commitment on behalf of the other.

Date: <i>Original Signed by John Hudson</i>	Date: <i>Original Signed by Kent King</i>
John Hudson, President, Paducah Amateur Radio Club	Kent King, Director, Paducah-McCracken Co. OEM