



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Between

Parker Fire Protection District

And

The Amateur Radio Emergency Service of Douglas and Elbert Counties

The Parker Fire Protection District (hereafter referred to as “Parker Fire”) and the Amateur Radio Emergency Service of Douglas and Elbert Counties (hereafter referred to as “ARES”), hereby agree to jointly cooperate during times of public emergency and local disaster.

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this agreement is to establish a framework for cooperation between Parker Fire officials and ARES volunteers. This agreement is intended to promote the sharing of resources to best serve the public interest during times of disaster or other emergency situations.

II. ROLE OF Parker Fire

The mission of Parker Fire is, *“To serve the public by preventing or mitigating situations which endanger their lives, health or property; and to excel in our services in a safe, efficient, and economical manner so as to be an asset to our community.”* The District does this through emergency response, as well as, safety education and enforcement of good safety practices. Parker Fire covers 100 square miles of Douglas and Arapahoe counties and serves the communities of Parker, Foxfield, parts of Lone Tree, Centennial and unincorporated Arapahoe and Douglas Counties.

III. ROLE OF ARES

The Amateur Radio Emergency Service is a national organization of communication volunteers created to serve local communities during emergencies and disasters. The Colorado ARES organization divides the state into 28 districts largely organized along county boundaries. The Amateur Radio Emergency Service of Douglas and Elbert Counties is a valuable resource during times of emergency or disaster, particularly when primary communications systems fail. The role of ARES is to: (1) recruit, organize and train FCC licensed amateur radio operators as skilled emergency communicators, (2) establish and maintain volunteer membership in order to provide supplementary communications to public safety agencies, (3) maintain a high-state of member personal preparedness and readiness.

V. PRINCIPLES OF COOPERATION

To ensure the protection of life and property, communication resources must be coordinated and utilized to their full advantage during disasters, emergencies and other public safety incidents. Parker Fire and ARES jointly agree to:

- (1) Maintain ongoing liaison to develop effective cooperation.
- (2) Participate in joint training exercises.
- (3) Cooperate in times of emergency and disaster to meet the needs of the public. Unless given specific preauthorization, ARES will not self-dispatch. Instead, ARES will respond when specifically requested by Parker Fire.
- (4) Work within the respective lines of authority for each group.
- (5) ARES personnel are responsible for their own safety and may decline an assignment if they feel their safety is at risk.
- (6) Publicize the contents of this agreement to respective members as well as other agencies involved in disaster relief.
- (7) Understand that ARES has similar agreements with other agencies and that resources during a disaster might be limited.

VII. IMPLEMENTATION

This memorandum shall take effect upon the joint signing by authorized representatives of Parker Fire Protection District and the Amateur Radio Emergency Service of Douglas and Elbert Counties.

This memorandum may be amended by mutual agreement of both parties and will remain in effect until terminated. Both parties will periodically review this agreement and coordinate revisions as needed. This memorandum may be terminated by either party with 30 days written notice.

		4/26/07
Parker Fire Protection District		Date

Daniel Qualman, Fire Chief
Print Name

		4/26/07
ARES of Douglas and Elbert Counties		Date

David Cook, Emergency Coordinator
Print Name