

BCARES and MEMBER Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

In accordance with the Vision, Mission, and Values of BCARES, the BCARES Board of Directors establishes these points of understanding between BCARES – the organization - and each individual BCARES member:

- 1) BCARES recognizes that we are all volunteers. Both as Amateur Radio Operators and as conscientious volunteers keenly interested in emergency preparedness and service to our community, we recognize that we all serve without pay and volunteer to the degree that our other family and work obligations permit.
- 2) BCARES conducts Orientation Training and provides training materials for all new members. Once trained, BCARES members are expected to conduct themselves in a professional manner consistent with their level of training and certification as an emergency responder. Existing members who feel they need a refresher on any aspect of BCARES, or ARES work in general, are strongly encouraged to attend any training session as many times as necessary to stay apprised of most current practices and information.
- 3) The BCARES Board of Directors has established written policies and practices to help guide the training and performance of all members. These policies include but are not limited to our: BCARES Bylaws, Vision-Mission- and-Values statements, B CARES Safety Policy, B CARES Identification Policy, Email Policy, B CARES Emergency Response “Red Book”, and BCARES Dos and Don’ts. Members agree to adhere to all BCARES policies and practices to the best of their ability and understanding.
- 4) BCARES has established Certification and Credential requirements for members enabling them to meet the needs and requirements of our Served Agencies. Once Certified and Credentialed, members agree to apply their training and demonstrate their expertise during periodic training exercises and actual emergencies when called upon to do so.
- 5) BCARES needs active, dedicated volunteers, not placeholders. Readiness and preparedness require frequent and recurring involvement. Members are expected to volunteer their time and expertise on a regular basis. Members who can no longer contribute regularly are asked to submit their written resignation and surrender their BCARES I.D., or if temporary, ask to be placed in a reserve, inactive capacity. In general, participation or support in one form or another at least once each month is considered “regular”. Members understand if they become inactive for extended periods of time exceeding one year that they may be asked by the BCARES Board to re-new their application, MOU and/or become retrained, re-Certified and re-Credentialed before being re-activated.
- 6) BCARES exists to serve the public and our Served Agencies. Members understand that our Served Agencies also have rules of conduct and requirements for BCARES member support and participation. Members agree to strictly abide by all rules and regulations established by our Served Agencies. Members also understand and agree that some B CARES members will have privileges and responsibilities granted by our Served Agencies not afforded to all other members.
- 7) BCARES members recognize and agree that we are emergency communicators first and Amateur Radio Operators second. Our job is to reliably pass message traffic and accurately convey information. We use our Amateur Radio license, modes and frequencies to our best advantage, but we may also be asked to use any other suitable, recognized means to reliably pass emergency message traffic, including but not limited to: FRS, GMRS, cell phone, internet, Public Safety frequencies, Citizens Band, or hand delivered messages.
- 8) BCARES members agree to treat all B CARES-owned and Served Agency owned equipment with the care and respect it deserves. Members agree to responsibly secure and safeguard all issued equipment in a manner that facilitates continued and future use by other B CARES members or other emergency responders.

To the BCARES Board of Directors

I, the undersigned B CARES member understand and agree to meet the spirit and intent of this Memorandum of Understanding to the best of my ability:

PRINT _____ **SIGN** _____ **Date** _____