




# PILOT NEIGHBORHOOD HAM WATCH

## Alachua County ARES®

- Based on projects carried out in Hernando County, Florida, and several other communities across the USA
- Hernando County used the following brochure to recruit amateur radio operators to volunteer as communications possibilities between their neighborhoods and the county authorities in a time of emergency:

How You Can Help Us	Neighborhood Ham Watch	Hernando County
<p>To participate in the Ham Watch program, please provide basic information requested below. All information is confidential and all records will be retained in the Emergency Operations Center (EOC).</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Mail the form to:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Hernando County Sheriff's Office</b>  <b>Emergency Management</b>  <b>HamWatch Coordinator</b>  <b>P.O. Box 10070</b>  <b>Brooksville, FL 34603-0070</b></p>	<p>The Ham Watch Program is a nationwide program of Ham Radio Operators that assist Emergency Management before, during and after an all hazards event. Hernando County's HamWatch supports the efforts of the EOC by providing staff with valuable information based on the needs of the citizens in their communities.</p> <p>ARES® EC's, NC's can help by including a check-in option for neighborhood Ham Watch operators during or immediately following training nets so participating Hams can begin establishing contact familiarity.</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <p>For more information on the Hernando County Ham Watch program contact:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>HamWatch Coordinator</b>  <b>Hernando County Sheriff's Office</b>  <b>Emergency Management</b>  <b>HamWatch Coordinator</b>  <b>P.O. Box 10070</b>  <b>Brooksville, FL 34603-0070</b></p>	<h2 style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">Neighborhood Ham Watch</h2> <p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">Hernando County Emergency Communications Service</p> <div style="text-align: center; margin: 10px 0;">  </div> <p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;"><b>Hams Helping Hernando County Neighbors In Time Of Disaster.</b></p> <div style="text-align: center; margin: 10px 0;">  </div>
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p style="text-align: right; margin: 0;"><i>Neighborhood Ham Watch Information</i></p> <p>NAME: _____</p> <p>ADDRESS: _____</p> <p>CITY, STATE, ZIP: _____</p> <p>NEIGHBORHOOD: _____</p> <p>GENERAL LOCATION INFO: _____</p> <p>PHONE: _____ CELL: _____</p> <p>EMAIL: _____</p> <p>TYPE OF EQUIPMENT YOU HAVE: _____</p> </div>		

**HERNANDO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

**Neighborhood Ham Watch**

**Goal:**  
Our goal is to provide a method for every capable Hernando County amateur radio operator who isn't involved in a deployed active EOC operation to serve his/her community in an Emergency Communications role. This would include senior citizens, care givers, health challenged, individuals with kids, off duty police and fire personnel, and others who cannot commit to a deployment but want to serve their community. These amateurs are good communicators, and have ample stations with emergency power they can use during periods of extended communication outages which often follow major disasters. These amateurs would augment the active EOC volunteers and be part of the EmComm System.

**Objectives:**  
1) Communicate neighborhood conditions to the Hernando County Emergency Operations Center. Emergency Managers will be provided access to first-hand information about conditions in the communities which they serve. They would handle health and welfare, report crime, notify EOC of the neighborhood emergency needs and fulfill other communication needs.

2) Relay information from local Emergency Managers to local neighborhoods so local citizens are better informed of relief efforts and information helpful to their survival and overall recovery process.

**Participation:**  
Requires the desire and capability to utilize your amateur radio license to help your fellow neighbors. You would augment communications when normal commercial communication systems have failed. There is no special training or equipment necessary. A valid license and 2-meter/UHF radio or HF rig will do the job.

**Concept of Operations:**  
Amateur Radio operators would communicate with EmComm operations and other Ham Watch stations that are in direct contact with local government EOC's. Because of commercial outages, this may be the only link to the outside world. During disasters, telephones, commercial television, radio, and cell phones may be out of service. HamWatch members would report neighborhood conditions, medical needs, or other dangerous situations to The EOC. The EOC, through amateur radio, would relay messages to these neighborhoods containing information citizens need for their safety and survival in the recovery effort.

**Key Players:**  
Amateur Radio operators from their homes, would be the active station in a Neighborhood Ham Watch Program. Local amateur radio clubs, ARES Groups, other EmComm groups or private owners of a 2M/UHF repeater support this program by providing the repeater(s) for use by Neighborhood Ham Watch operators. Simplex operation should be practiced and utilized when/where necessary. These communications would be secondary to emergency operations and should be given ample time to handle the local neighborhood needs.

**How Do I Get Involved:**  
Complete the form on this brochure and return it to: Hernando County Sheriff's Office Emergency Management, PO Box 10070, Brooksville, FL 34604-0070. This will allow the EOC to retain a viable list of participants in the program. Notify your Neighborhood Watch and Homeowner's Associations, along with your neighbors of your mission and capabilities to communicate with the EOC when all other forms of communication have been impacted.

The Hernando brochure simply suggests that ham radio operators

*Notify your Neighborhood Watch and Homeowner's Association, along with your neighbors, of your mission and capabilities to communicate with the EOC when all other forms of communication have been impacted.*

Alachua County ARES® would suggest that where it seems appropriate, the amateur radio volunteer take a few additional steps:

1. Choose a radio communications system by which neighbors can communicate to you if the phones are out, without having to walk down the street in dangerous weather – suggestions would be using FRS/GMRS Channel 2, or one of the MURS channels. FRS radios are inexpensive to purchase, and require no license to use. Their range in a neighborhood is quite limited, but if your neighbors all know that you are monitoring Channel 2, an informal “relay” of information can increase the range to get problems forwarded to you.

2. If appropriate, after you have notified them/your HOA or other organization of your availability, consider walking through your immediate neighborhood, to visit your neighbors, introduce yourself to any who don't know you, answer any questions they might have, and make note of any obvious issues that might become significant should the electrical power go out, telephone service fail, and/or wind/rain damage occur. Note this sort of information for possible later informal "wellness checks" on a form similar to the one provided below --- but please keep it confidential.
  
3. In the event of a hurricane or other emergency/disaster, Alachua County ARES® and other radio amateurs will maintain an emergency net on local repeaters as shown in the following table. If you have a situation that needs attention, contact the Net Control Station through the emergency net and notify them of the problem. If your situation is a true emergency, simply break into the conversation with your emergency. If not quite so urgent, listen for requests for such notifications from the Net Control Station.
  
4. Thank you for your willingness to serve your community!

**Amateur Radio Frequencies Likely To Be  
Monitored During Emergency  
Alachua County**

Name	Frequency
K4GNV 2-meter repeater	146.820 MHz, - offset, 0.6 MHz, Tone 123
K4GNV 2-meter repeater	146.985 MHz, - offset, 0.6 MHz, Tone 123
North Florida ARES net	3.950 MHz Lower side band / alternate 7.242 / 7.247 MHz Lower side band
K4GNV / SARNET 70 cm state-wide	444.925 MHz, + offset, 5.0 MHz, No Tone

**Neighborhood Canvas Results**  
**(please maintain confidentiality)**

	Name	Phone Number Address	Notable situational issues
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(If more entries are needed, please photocopy or attach additional sheets)

Suggested card for distribution to explain to your neighbors

**Neighborhood Radio Emergency Contact System**

Hello! My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I am one of your neighbors who happens to be an FCC-licensed amateur radio operator. Our local volunteer group has a program to help provide emergency contact to the local authorities, should the telephones/power/cell service quit due to a hurricane or other emergency. Using my amateur radio equipment I can reach volunteers at the Emergency Operations Center and notify them of a situation or need if others means of communication are not working. You may contact me directly; also I will be monitoring the FRS (Family Radio Service) walkie-talkie **Channel 2** during actual hurricanes or other emergencies. These widely available walkie-talkies require no license and have limited range, but in our neighborhood they may serve the purpose, so that you don't have to go out in the weather to report a problem that needs emergency help.

My Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
My Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
My Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

**Neighborhood Radio Emergency Contact System**

Hello! My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I am one of your neighbors who happens to be an FCC-licensed amateur radio operator. Our local volunteer group has a program to help provide emergency contact to the local authorities, should the telephones/power/cell service quit due to a hurricane or other emergency. Using my amateur radio equipment I can reach volunteers at the Emergency Operations Center and notify them of a situation or need if others means of communication are not working. You may contact me directly; also I will be monitoring the FRS (Family Radio Service) walkie-talkie **Channel 2** during actual hurricanes or other emergencies. These widely available walkie-talkies require no license and have limited range, but in our neighborhood they may serve the purpose, so that you don't have to go out in the weather to report a problem that needs emergency help.

My Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
My Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
My Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_