

MUTUAL AID RADIO COMMUNICATIONS (MARC) UNITS

OVERVIEW

Following the 1998 wildfires, seven (7) MARC units were purchased by the DSFM through a grant. The original seven (7) are State owned, but operated by local fire departments (Hosting Agency) through the FFCA ERC.

A Mutual Aid Radio Communications (MARC) Unit consists of a trailer mounted 100-foot radio mast with a storage container, generator and radio cache. Each unit has a cache of portable VHF, UHF, and 700/800 MHz. radios. The MARC's are also equipped with interoperability packages that allow radios on dissimilar systems or frequencies to communicate.

DEFINITION

The State of Florida Mutual Aid Radio Communication response system provides a self-sustained radio cache that can be deployed into impacted areas that have lost existing, or need additional radio communication capabilities. There are a total of ten MARC Units (eight (8) regional & (2) statewide) that are strategically located throughout Florida

MISSION

To provide rapid deployment of trained individuals and technical two way communications equipment into areas where a preplanned event or disaster has occurred which has resulted in the need for additional communications' capabilities for first responders of all disciplines.



ASSIGNMENTS

MARC Units are strategically positioned throughout the State, with a minimum of one unit assigned within each region.

REGION	MARC UNIT ID	HOSTING AGENCY	HOSTING COUNTY
1	MARC-1	Ocean City Wright Fire Control District	Okaloosa
2	MARC-2	Tallahassee Fire Department	Leon
3	MARC-3	Alachua County Fire Rescue	Alachua
State	MARC-ST-1	Florida State Fire College	Marion
4	MARC-4	Hillsborough County Fire Rescue	Hillsborough
5	MARC-5-South	Martin County Fire Rescue	Martin
5	MARC-5-North	Winter Park Fire Department	Orange
6	MARC-6	Lehigh Acres Fire Control and Rescue	Lee
State	MARC-ST-2	Division of Forestry	Manatee
7	MARC-7	Tamarac Fire Department	Broward
TOTAL			10

MARC DEPLOYMENTS

For purposes of deployment, the MARC Units are to be considered FFCA emergency response resources and are only to be deployed under the provisions of this SERP. All deployments, emergency and non-emergency, are to be tasked with the approval of the State Coordinator and/or the Emergency Coordinating Officer for ESF 4/9. In addition, the State Coordinator and/or the Emergency Coordinating Officer for ESF 4/9 shall have final authority to determine the appropriateness of all mission requests and the duration of all MARC Unit deployments.

There are six (6) basic applications or methods of use of the MARC units:

- As a stand alone antenna site
- As a stand alone communications site tower site
- Located adjacent to incident command center
- As a tower site remote from incident command center
- As a mutual aid check-in facility
- Cache radios only

Additional information and details on MARC capabilities and use can be found in Appendix-D.