

MERT

Marion County Emergency Radio Team

MERT Interoperability Vision Statement

January, 2025

Marion County

The Marion County Emergency Radio Team (MERT) recognizes the importance of interoperability with all amateur radio organizations in Marion County in providing an integrated Emergency Communications (EMCOMM) umbrella of resources for Marion County governmental, public and private entities under the direction of the Division of Emergency Management.

The overall objective of the vision is to overlap the tremendous resources licensed amateur radio operators provide during critical emergencies in delivering the maximum assistance to the maximum number of residents in our County consistent with the National Incident Management System (NIMS).

We support a strong working partnership between all groups by supporting, to the fullest extent possible, the regular communications, joint emergency communications (EMCOMM) meetings, training/testing Nets and joint exercises in maintaining the highest level of preparedness of each organization in service to the residents of Marion County, FL. Specifically, we recognize these organizations:

- *Marion County ARES (ARES)*
- *Marion County Hospital Emergency Communications Team (HEC)*

Regional & Statewide Florida

The Marion County Emergency Radio Team (MERT) also recognizes the importance of interoperability with all adjoining County's; regional amateur radio groups; and, all City, County, State & Federal governmental Emergency Management organizations.

MERT's actions are intended to assist in supporting an integrated Emergency Communications (EMCOMM) umbrella of information and resources locally and regionally for maintaining and advancing the capabilities, skills and experience of MERT's members as well as all the participants in regional, state, and federal organizations.

MERT supports the regular participation in meetings, training/testing Nets and exercises by the following organizations:

- *North Florida Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES)*
- *City and County amateur radio volunteers and Emergency Management agencies surrounding Marion County, FL*
- *Statewide Amateur Radio Network (SARNET)*
- *Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM)*
- *Shared Resources High Frequency (HF) Radio Program (SHARES) – Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency; Dept. of Homeland Security*