

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Between

Volunteer Florida and SARnet, Inc.

Purpose:

Volunteer Florida and SARnet, Inc. jointly enter into this Memorandum of Understanding to provide mutual support of Emergency Support Function (ESF) 15 Volunteers and Donations in communities impacted by disasters during response and recovery operations. This agreement will improve the ability of our agencies to assist disaster survivors; utilize volunteers and donations; and ensure the success of ESF 15.

Nothing in this MOU shall be construed to impose on either party or the State of Florida any additional liability. Any provision of the MOU that is inconsistent with the State's sovereign immunity statutes shall be considered null and void. Each party agrees to assume its own liability and responsibility for the acts, omission, or conduct of such Party's own employees or agents in relation to this MOU, subject to the provisions of Section 768.28, Florida Statutes, where applicable, and subject to other relevant State law.

SARnet, Inc. was created to facilitate emergency communications via amateur radio during times of natural disaster or national emergency in the State of Florida utilizing an executed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between this corporation (SARnet, Inc.), the Florida Department of Emergency Management, and the Florida Department of Transportation.

Under the Florida Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP), Volunteer Florida is the lead agency for ESF 15 Volunteers and Donations. SARnet, Inc. agrees to serve as an ESF 15 Support Organization and will be recognized as such in the state CEMP; provided, however, that such recognition does not preclude the participation of SARnet, Inc. in other critical and appropriate Emergency Support Functions.

It is understood that Volunteer Florida will:

1. Create and maintain a capabilities Matrix and an e-mail notification listing of all current MOU partners for use during any Emergency Management Operation or any activation of the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC);
2. Notify SARnet, Inc. through the Florida Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster (FLVOAD) when the Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM) activates the SEOC and Joint Field Office (JFO) and provide updates on activities as necessary;
3. Inform SARnet, Inc. about opportunities to apply for available reimbursement for disaster related expenses for which SARnet, Inc. may qualify;
4. Solicit input from SARnet, Inc. regarding ESF 15 plans and operations when appropriate;
5. Update SARnet, Inc. on any changes in Volunteer Florida ESF 15 personnel or contact information.

It is understood that SARnet, Inc. will:

1. Notify Volunteer Florida / ESF 15 of any disaster deployments of staff and resources, and submit situation reports that may include the location(s) and the type(s) of services and resources being provided, and numbers of volunteers involved;
2. Provide services in coordination with ESF 15 and other Emergency Support Functions as appropriate, including, but not limited to:

The organization will provide upkeep and maintenance in support of the SARnet system before, during and following state or national emergencies.


Will establish communications in remote areas with limited or no communication abilities.

Coordinate volunteer amateur radio operators with SARnet system knowledge to help facilitate the state and local emergency workers and infrastructure.

Will work in direct support of whatever is needed or required by ESF 2, as tasked.

3. Inventory the capabilities and resources of SARnet, Inc. in times of disaster and provide that information to ESF 15;
4. Register SARnet, Inc. with Volunteer Connect and, as appropriate, advertise available volunteer opportunities on Volunteer Connect;
5. Participate in reviews of the ESF 15 Volunteers and Donations Annex and Standard Operating Guidelines as needed.
6. Implement and maintain computer security practices or utilize software designed to detect and protect against ransomware and hacking.

This Memorandum of Understanding will take effect upon the date it is signed by representatives of both organizations. The term of this MOU is 36 months and may be renewable. Either party may terminate this agreement upon the provision of 90 days written notice to the other party. This agreement may be amended at any time, in writing and signed by both parties.

Signed by:

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Erin Sjostrom
Chief Operating Officer, Volunteer Florida
8/13/2025
Date

Signed by:

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James Hoge
Treasurer/Secretary, SARnet, Inc.
8/12/2025
Date