

Illinois ARES/AUXCOMM Incident Operating Practices

*ARRL Central Division and Illinois Section Conventions
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This is a plan of how the Illinois Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) will operate during a large-scale incident.

It is a state-wide communications plan.

It does not replace any local plans.

Regions, clubs and individuals are encouraged to develop plans of their own using this document for guidance.

The plan contains guidance that areas without an amateur communications plan can use to initiate communications.



Interaction with Other Agencies

It is designed to interact with other entities that have communication assets, e.g. IEMA HF, CERT, FEMA (CISA) SHARES, Red Cross, Salvation Army, MARS, etc.

Our goal is to closely coordinate with these agencies in an environment of open and active cooperation.



What is the purpose of the plan?

The plan has been written with the aim of creating a document any reasonably trained amateur radio operator can understand and use in a communications emergency.

A goal is to distribute the plan widely throughout the state to county EMAs and other agencies to incorporate as part of their EOP communications plans.



ZONES

To allow better span of control, the state is divided into three zones.

North Zone	IEMA regions 2,3 and 4
Central Zone	IEMA regions 6 and 7
South Zone	IEMA regions 8, 9 and 11

It is not the intent to isolate any one or a group of counties from another but to facilitate better control within the Incident Command structure.

The zone manager is like an incident commander.

The DEC where the event occur is considered the incident commander.



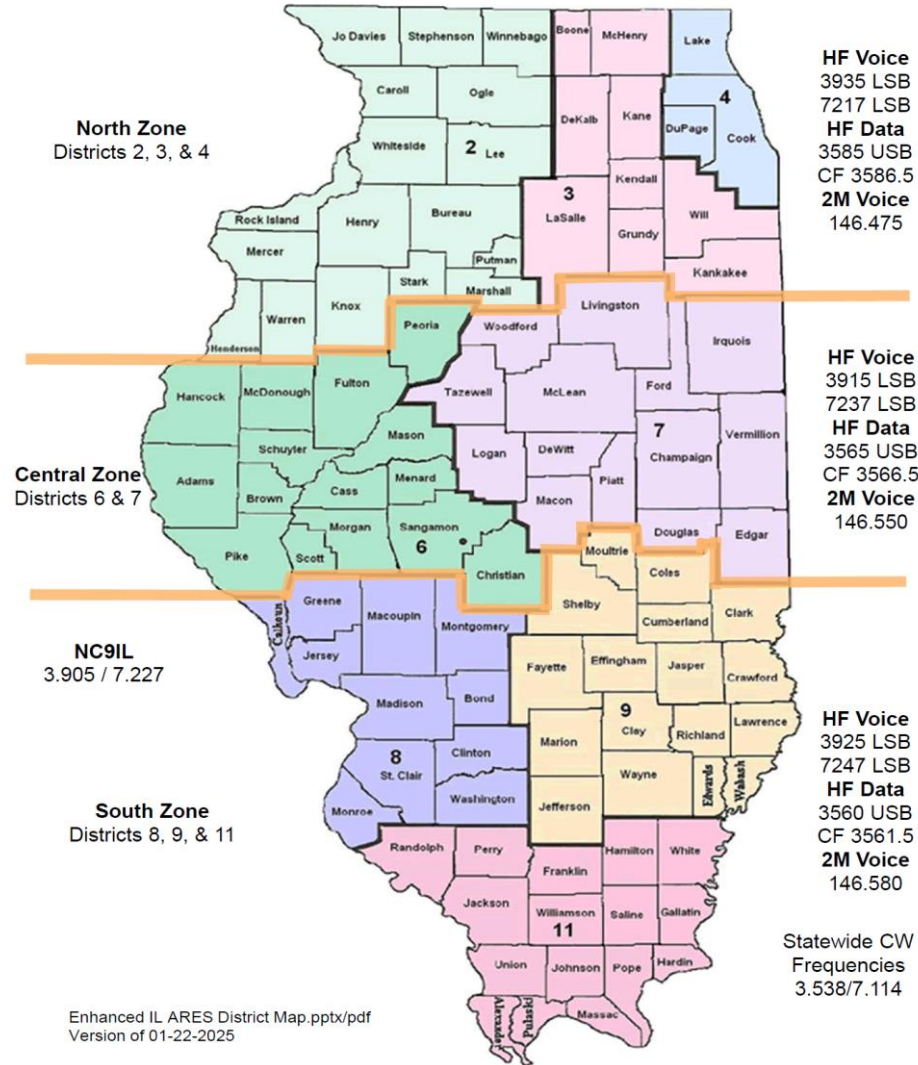
ZONES

Each zone has its own assigned HF and 2M simplex frequencies for voice and data.

The plan contains zone ICS 217a listing all significant 2M repeaters with in the zone.



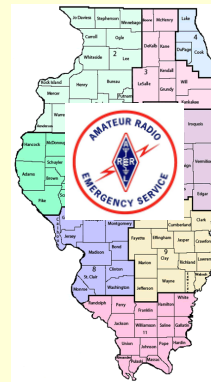
Illinois ARES Zone Map with Frequencies



Illinois ARES Emergency Coordinators



Map of Illinois ECs.pdf
Data as of 08/07/2025



The Plan

The plan contains guidance on:

How to establish initial communications on HF, repeaters and simplex state wide and locally if there is not a local plan.

It discusses who/how to assume net control.

Message handling: ICS 213, ARRL Radiograms, other forms.

Guidance for interaction with local agencies and organizations.



Questions?

<https://arrl-il.org/>

