



STATE OF FLORIDA

DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

RICK SCOTT
Governor

BRYAN W. KOON
Director

All Amateur Radio Operators

I would like to thank everyone that participated in the 2016 State of Florida COOP and Hurricane Kimo Exercise. We had five relays, multiple Public Safety and Emergency management agencies including the National Hurricane Center, the National Weather Service, and twenty-six counties involved in the exercise. Mission 175. In starting this process eighteen month ago, we have taken small steps to bring back the participation with the State of Florida and the amateur radio community, in doing so, the recent event has shown great improvement to our Amateur Radio communications response for when the real event occurs.

I would like to recognize the great leadership efforts of Steve Szabo and all of the ARRL ARES section coordinators for assembling their EC groups to participate. I would also like to personally and professionally thank Michael Lee AA6ML, for bringing his EMCOMM-1 unit and operating for my agency as lead communications officer. Michael cancelled going to Dayton to participate which I think is very dedicated to the promotion of Amateur Radio to the Public Service needs in the time of disaster.

Our State Meteorology officer was also involving with the Amateur Radio operations and did a full real-time weather briefing using the SARnet network to the National Hurricane Center. This was under Mission 181. To enhance the challenges of radio communications we also utilized HF SHARES covering nine states.

This demonstrated a great participation and was well received by the State EM Director's staff with great interest for the support that Amateur Radio provides.

ARES Counties involved: Escambia, Washington, Clay, Santa Rosa, Leon, Lake, Sarasota, Sumter, Madison, Hernando, Jefferson, Suwannee, Polk, Volusia, Seminole, Citrus, Martin, Desoto, Gilchrist, Hendry, Nassau, Broward, Duval, St. Johns, Putnam, Highlands.

HF SHARES States involved: Kentucky, Tennessee, South Carolina, North Carolina, Michigan, Louisiana, Indiana, Hawaii, Virginia.

Sincerely,

Phil Royce FDEM Communications Director / SWIC / KE4PWE