



Merrimack Valley Amateur Radio Association, Inc.

PO Box 143

Auburn, NH 03032

www.MerrimackValleyARA.org

Merrimack Valley Digital Network Operating Policy – 4/28/2024

1. The purpose of the policy is to clarify the relationship between the Merrimack Valley Amateur Radio Association (MVARA) and the customers of its network.
 - a. MVARA is not associated with ARES, although many MVARA members are also ARES members.
2. The Merrimack Valley Digital Network (MVDN) is a project of the MVARA.
 - a. MVDN is IP-based amateur radio microwave infrastructure intended to support licensed radio amateurs in organizations, such as amateur radio clubs, and in the general amateur radio community with communications during normal and emergency situations.
 - b. MVDN is not associated with ARES. ARES groups may be MVDN customers if they wish.
3. Organizations and individuals are customers of the network.
4. MVARA owns, operates and maintains network backbone and tower-site equipment.
5. MVARA or customers may own the radios and routers on the customers' premises.
 - a. Equipment provided by customers must be approved by MVARA before installation and connection to the MVDN.
 - b. Customers must establish network access guidelines for their premises.
 - c. Customers are responsible for network security and integrity at their sites.
 - i. Wifi access to the network must be password enabled to protect against unlicensed use.
 - ii. Direct cable connections to the network must be secured physically against unlicensed use.
 - d. Customers are responsible for maintaining user-owned equipment on their premises.
 - e. Customers will designate a contact person and provide MVARA with name, email and phone number of the contact person.
6. Customers may access MVDN services, or establish their own services.
 - a. All customer-installed services must be approved in advance by the Network Manager or other MVARA official in consultation with the Network Manager.
 - b. The Network Manager or designated MVARA official will be granted remote access to customers' routers and servers to assess network quality control as necessary.



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7. As an amateur radio network, traffic on the network must not be encrypted.
8. Priorities for installations at tower or building sites.
 - a. Site is institutionally or municipally owned rather than individually owned
 - i. Individually owned sites may be considered when they meet key needs of the MVDN
 - b. Site is located where it extends the MVDN in the context of a New England-wide network, and how it supports the DMR network.
 - c. Site owner is willing to participate in the MVDN.
 - d. New site would accept MVDN equipment, and a DMR repeater if needed at that location.