

Autopatch – Ham Radio connected to the telephone system and can communicate with NON Hams.

The ARRL Phone Patch and Autopatch Guidelines from the ARRL Operating Manual, 4th edition 1991 provides in part:

“Radio amateurs in the US enjoy a great privilege: The ability to connect their private radio stations and repeaters with the public telephone system.

In a typical phone patch operation, two amateurs will use their HF stations to create a radio link between distant telephone systems, permitting NON HAMS to communicate with each other. Phone patches are particularly useful in emergencies. Lives have been saved when physicians in isolated areas were able to consult with specialists in modern hospitals.

Autopatch operation usually involves a VHF or UHF repeater as an interface to a local telephone exchange.

... Hams operating mobile or portable are able to use the autopatch to access the telephone system and place a call to a non ham. ... Hams have used autopatches to report traffic accidents, fires and other emergencies.” (emphasis added).