



Amateur Radio Emergency Services (ARES)

Concept of Operations

Overview of the Amateur Radio Emergency Services:

ARES members are part of an elite team of amateur radio operators that provide emergency communications support to virtually any agency and jurisdiction. It is the flexibility of the ARES that makes it the nation's most robust emergency communications service in the nation. ARES allows for communications down to the last mile while other organizations have their official mandates and communications requirements that limit their capabilities. ARES recognizes these other organizations and stands ready and able to support them when requested.

When disaster strikes, the individual ARES member may begin to communicate the situation as it is seen outside their window. Much like a Skywarn storm spotter that reports the weather situation on the ground as it happens, so does the ARES member during a disaster.

Leadership:

Assistant Emergency Coordinator: Fulfills the duties of the EC upon their absence. Performs duties as assigned by the EC. Appointed by the EC.

Emergency Coordinator: Fulfills the leadership position for a given group, club, served agency, or jurisdiction. Appointed by the ASEC or selected by the group, club, served agency or jurisdiction and approved by the SEC.

Assistant District Emergency Coordinator: Fulfills the duties of the DEC in their absence. Performs duties as assigned by the DEC. Appointed by the DEC and approved by the ASEC or SEC.

District Emergency Coordinator: The leadership position over a large geographic area, an area containing two or more ECs, or the leadership position for a single served agency with locations over a wide geographic area. Appointed by the ASEC and approved by the SEC. May fulfill the duties of the ASEC upon their absence.

Assistant Section Emergency Coordinator: The leadership over a single county within the section. Appointed by the SEC.

Section Emergency Coordinator: The leadership over the section. Appointed by the SM.

Membership & Training Requirements:

New member: As defined by the ARRL (licensed amateur operator with a desire to serve).

Credentialed member: Completion of *New Member Orientation* course and the completion of *Introduction to Emergency Communications (EC-001)* course or equivalent.

AEC: Credentialed member.

EC: Credentialed member and the completion of *FEMA Professional Development Series*.

ADEC: Same as EC.

DEC: Same as EC.

ASEC: Same as EC and the completion of *Public Service and Emergency Communications Management for Radio Amateurs (EC-016)* course.

ARES Activation:

Clubs and groups that provide ARES are to follow the activation protocol of their respective served agency and or bylaws.

Individual ARES members are self-activating. It is understood that when an emergency situation occurs, those in the affected area will be aware of the emergency. Individual ARES members within the affected area tune their equipment to the local net repeater frequency. If that repeater is not operable they are to utilize the output frequency of the repeater in simplex mode and announce that they are an active ARES. This will allow other amateur operators that may use the local repeater and outside the affected area to receive messages from inside the affected area.

Local net repeater frequencies may be VHF or UHF. Other frequencies that may be utilized are those frequencies that are used by ARES in regularly scheduled HF nets, which include the 40m and 80m frequencies. Refer to the ARES Nets listing for a list of frequencies to use. Refer to the *Amateur Radio Emergency Services General Communications Plan* for a graphic description of the ARES emergency communications plan.

Dual memberships:

There are ARES members that maintain membership in other amateur radio communications systems. It must be noted that those members run the risk of not fulfilling duties as ARES members during an emergency. Those members that maintain dual role or multiple role membership MUST inform their section leadership if they are unable to provide emergency communication service in the ARES due to other commitments.