



AMATEUR RADIO EMERGENCY SERVICE PLAN FOR THE NORTHEAST LOUISIANA DISTRICT



Rev 1.2

1. INTRODUCTION

1. The Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) is composed of radio operators who are licensed by the Federal Communication Commission (FCC) after passing a written examination on their knowledge of telecommunications and technical skills in the operation of radio equipment.
2. ARES is composed of FCC licensed Amateur Radio operators who have voluntarily registered their capabilities and equipment for public service communication duty.
3. Under Federal regulations, Amateur Radio public service communications are furnished without compensation of any kind.
4. The District functions under this Emergency Plan under the directions of the District Emergency Coordinator (DEC), who is appointed by the American Radio Relay League (ARRL) Section Emergency Coordinator (SEC) in consultation with the Section Manager, who is the top ARRL ARES official in the state.
5. The parish ARES teams function under this Emergency Plan under the direction of the Parish Emergency Coordinators (EC) in consultation with the District Emergency Coordinator.
6. The DEC coordinates the interrelationship between local emergency plans and between communications networks within the District, acts as backup for local areas without an EC and assists in maintaining contact with government and other agencies in the District.
7. The DEC makes local decisions through coordination with the SEC concerning allocations of available Amateurs and equipment during an emergency.

2. PURPOSE

1. The purpose of this plan is to provide a written guide containing the minimum information that would be needed in an emergency. Each emergency is different and flexibility to provide an adequate response to each is a necessity
2. The primary responsibility of the DEC is to coordinate multi-parish communications in the event of a natural or man-made disaster, when regular communications are inadequate or fail.

3. All drills, training and instructions shall be carried out to insure readiness to respond quickly in providing effective Amateur emergency communications whenever an occasion may arise.

4. The following groups may be served during a communication emergency, but are not limited to: Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness, American Red Cross government officials, fire department(s), law enforcement, Salvation Army, and other public service agencies requesting assistance from ARES.

3. ACTIVATING THE PLAN

1. Any member of the parish ARES team who, for any reason, suspects a communication emergency exist should monitor the assigned net frequency for activity.

2. If local telephone service is available, the EC and/or assistant EC should be notified by telephone.

3. In an emergency in which Amateur Radio might serve the community, Amateur Radio operators might be alerted by any City, Parish, Red Cross, Emergency Management, or similar official by contacting the EC.

4. On the activation of any parish ARES team, the affected parish EC will contact the DEC and advise him of the situation.

4. ARES MOBILIZATION PROCEDURE

1. If telephone service is available, the telephone tree is activated.

2. Upon the awareness or notification that a communication emergency exist, members of the Local ARES Team will check into their Emergency Services net. Parishes without nets will check into the NELA District ARES Net on 147.015(+) FM repeater with 146.520 FM Simplex as the alternate frequency.

3. Parishes with High Frequency (HF) capability may check into the Louisiana ARES HF Net (LAN) on 7285 daytime or 3873 nighttime. Should the Emergency effect the entire District, or a major part, the LAN Net will run 24/7 for the duration of the emergency.

4. Liaison stations to the following National Traffic Systems nets may be assigned:

Louisiana Traffic Net (LTN) 3910 khz Traffic

Louisiana ARES Net (LAN) 3873 khz Tactical

Fifth Region Net (RN5) 7280 khz Traffic-specific net times (out of state or national traffic only)

5. DRILLS, TESTS AND ALERTS

1. The district ARES teams shall establish and maintain a training net to be called on a weekly basis. This net shall be identified as a training net in its preamble, and shall be open to all check-ins. The net is called at 8:00 PM, local time, each Monday night. The training net shall be held on the same frequency as a true emergency.
2. An annual test will be conducted each Fall in conjunction with the nation-wide ARRL Simulated Emergency Test (SET).
3. Local ARES teams will regularly supply Public Service Communications in conjunction with local events to test the effectiveness of the operation.
4. At the discretion of the DEC and EC, local ARES stations may be activated unannounced via the telephone tree at least once a year.

Contact:

David S. Gore W5DSG
District Emergency Coordinator
Northeast Louisiana
318.237.9245 mobile 1
318.235.6845 mobile 2
mail@ares-nela.org

Original Plan Designed by:

R. D. Whitecotton AC5VN
ARRL NELA DEC
1 Oct 2003

M.D. Cox K5MC
ARRL SM-LA Section
1 Oct 2003