

Tri-State

Amateur Radio Emergency Service

Richardson, Nemaha, Johnson, Pawnee County, Nebraska

What is Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES)?

The Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) consists of licensed amateurs who have voluntarily registered their qualifications and equipment for communications duty

in the public service when disaster strikes. Every licensed amateur, regardless of membership in ARRL or any other local or national organization, is eligible for membership in the ARES. The only qualification, other than possession of an Amateur

Radio license, is a sincere desire to serve. Because ARES is an amateur service, only

amateurs are eligible for membership. The possession of emergency-powered equipment is desirable, but is not a requirement for membership.

How is ARES Organized?

There are four levels of organization within ARES:

- *National* – National Emergency Coordination at the ARRL HQ is under the supervision of the ARRL Field Services Manager, who is responsible for advising all ARES officials regarding their problems, maintaining contact with federal government and other national officials concerned with amateur emergency communications potential, and in general with carrying out the League's policies regarding emergency communications.

- *Section* - At the section level, the Section Emergency Coordinator is appointed by the Section Manager (who is elected by the ARRL members in his or her section) and works under his/her supervision. In most sections, the SM delegates to the SEC the administration of the section emergency plan and the authority to appoint District and local ECs. Some of the ARRL sections with capable SECs are well-organized. A few have scarcely any organization at all. It depends almost entirely on who the section members have put into office as SM and whom he/she has appointed as SEC.

- *Local* - It is at the local level where most of the real emergency organizing gets accomplished, because this is the level at which most emergencies occur and the level at which ARES leaders make direct contact with the ARES member-volunteers and with officials of the agencies to be served.

The local EC is therefore the key contact in the ARES. The EC is appointed by the SEC, usually on the recommendation of the DEC. Depending on how the SEC has set up the section for administrative purposes, the EC may have jurisdiction over a small community or a large city, an entire county or even a group of counties. Whatever jurisdiction is assigned, the EC is in charge of all ARES activities in his area, not just one interest group, one agency, one club or one band.

- *District* - In the large sections, the local groups could proliferate to the point where simply keeping track of them would be more than a full-time chore, not to mention the idea of trying to coordinate them in an actual emergency. To this end, SECs have the option of grouping their EC jurisdictions into logical units or "districts" and appointing a District EC to coordinate the activities of the local ECs in the district. In some cases, the districts may conform to the boundaries of governmental planning or emergency-operations districts, while in others they are simply based on repeater coverage or geographical boundaries.

What does County ARES Plan to do?

Some of the current goals of Tri-State ARES include:

- Develop a pool of amateur radio operators who have voluntarily registered their stations for participation in ARES, and provide training opportunities to build communicating skills.
- Identify situations and scenarios within Howard County that might necessitate amateur radio communications support, and work with Howard County Emergency Management to build emergency response plans around these scenarios.
- Encourage participation in amateur radio nets, SET, and other events which develop emergency communications skills.

How can I participate?

There are many ways you can participate in ARES, including:

- Voluntarily registering your station with ARES
- Serving as an assistant Emergency Coordinator (AEC)
- Assisting with training activities
- Providing input on plans, ideas, and activities
- Participating in regular weekly nets and meetings
- Spreading the word to other amateur radio operators about ARES.

Where can I get more information?

- Email the Howard County EC, at w0taw@tri-statearc.org
- Check into the Tri-State ARES net, <time to be set> on 147.075+
- Attend the Tri-State Amateur Radio Club meeting, the Second Saturday of each month at 7:00pm at _____.
- Visit our web page at <http://www.tri-statearc.org>