



www.MurrayCountyARES.org

WHAT IS AMATEUR RADIO EMERGENCY SERVICES (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.

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 (SEC) is appointed by the Section Manager (SM) (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.
- **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. For Murray County, we are in District 5 for the state of Minnesota. Our District 5 ARES Emergency Coordinator is Dan Anderson who is the Nobles County Emergency Management Director.

- **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 Emergency Coordinator (EC) is therefore the key contact in the ARES. The EC is appointed by the SEC, usually on the recommendation of the District Emergency Coordinator (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.

MURRAY COUNTY ARES TEAM OBJECTIVES:

- Develop a pool of amateur radio operators who have voluntarily their stations for participation in ARES, and provide training opportunities to build communicating skills.
- Identify situations and scenarios within Murray County that might necessitate amateur radio communications support, and work with Murray County Emergency Management and neighboring counties emergency management to build emergency response plans around these scenarios. We

all the neighboring ARES teams in the counties we work together as a regional ARES team to respond to emergencies when requested.

- Encourage participation in amateur radio nets, SET, and other events which develop emergency communications skills.

DO YOU WANT TO PARTICIPATE IN ARES, STARTING INCLUDES:

- Volunteer and join our ARES Team
- Serving as an assistant Emergency Coordinator (AEC)
- Assisting with training activities
- Providing input on plans, ideas, and activities
- Spreading the word to other amateur radio operators about ARES.
- Join us every Wednesday at 8pm (CST) on 146.79 with tone 141.3 for our SW Minnesota Regional ARES and Information Net.