

# Amateur Radio Emergency and Public Safety Communications



**ARRL** *The national association for  
AMATEUR RADIO*

# Terminology

- Communications Emergency – Normal lines of communication are down or overloaded, Amateur Radio can help until normal conditions are restored
- Emergency – localized event that threatens life and property, usually handled by first responders (police, fire, emergency medical), rarely results in a communications emergency
- Disaster – large scale event that usually goes beyond the capability of first responders, often results in a communications emergency, disaster response volunteers usually involved
- Public Service – Any Amateur Radio support for a local community, can include emergency and disaster communications as well as communications support for events such as parades, marathons, festivals, etc.



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- Served Agency – Any agency or organization that Amateur Radio operators provide communications for, can be governmental or non-governmental, examples include emergency management, Red Cross, National Weather Service, and fire service.



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# History

- 1913 Ohio/Michigan flood
- 1925 Army MARS
- 1935 Amateur Radio Emergency Service
- 1941-1945 WERS
- 2001 9/11
- 2005 Hurricane Katrina
- 2010 Haiti Earthquake



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# EmComm Organizations

- ARES – Amateur Radio Emergency Service
- MARS – Military Auxiliary Radio Service
- RACES – Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service
- SATERN – Salvation Army
- WX4NHC – National Hurricane Center
- VOIP WX Net – NHC/NWS support
- NTS – National Traffic System



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# ARES

- About 40,000 participants nationwide
- Organized locally
- Active at state level
- ARES E-Letter and ARRL\_EmComm Twitter feed
- Works with local served agencies



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# What we do...

- Tornadoes
- Floods
- Hurricanes
- Wildfires
- Earthquakes
- Community Event
- Power Outages



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# ARES Organization

- Emergency Coordinator – local volunteer appointed to coordinate ARES activities, typically covers a county or city
- District Emergency Coordinator – oversees activities of EC's, several counties or large metro area
- Section Emergency Coordinator – oversees ARES programs within their Section, appointed by and works with Section Manager



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# National Level - ARRL

- Emergency Preparedness Program
- Field Services
- Ham Aid
- Web Resources
- Education and Training
- Publications



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# International EmComm

- Support for large catastrophic events
- IARU
- Global Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Conference



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