

AMATEUR RADIO EMERGENCY SERVICES
EMERGENCY PLAN FOR CHESHIRE COUNTY, NEW HAMPSHIRE

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Cheshire County Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) is composed of FCC licensed Amateur Radio Operators who have voluntarily registered their capabilities and equipment for public service communications duty.

1.2 Under Federal regulations, the contents of messages handled by Amateur Radio are not divulged to unauthorized persons and such public service communications are furnished without compensation of any kind.

1.3 The Cheshire County ARES functions under This Emergency Plan under the direction of the Emergency Coordinator (EC) and the Section Emergency Coordinator (SEC) who are appointed by the ARRL Section Manager (SM).

1.4 The EC may appoint Assistant Emergency Coordinators (AEC) as needed for the ARES to function efficiently.

2. PURPOSE

2.1 The purpose of this plan is to provide a written guide containing the minimum information that would be in a emergency. Each emergency is different and flexibility to provide an adequate response to each is a necessity.

2.2 The primary responsibility of the Cheshire County ARES is to furnish communications in the event of a disaster, when regular communications fail or are inadequate.

2.3 All drills, training and instruction shall be carried out to insure readiness to respond quickly in providing effective Amateur Emergency Communications whenever an occasion may arise.

2.4 The following is a non-exclusive list of agencies that could be served during a communications emergency:

- American Red Cross
- Cheshire Medical Center
- Southwestern Fire Mutual Aid
- Fire and Police departments in the area
- New Hampshire Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management
- Salvation Army
- Monadnock Humane Society
- Area nursing homes
- City and town governments in the region
- Any other agencies requesting assistance from ARES

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3. ACTIVATING THE PLAN

3.1 Any member of the Cheshire County Ares who for any reason suspects a communications emergency exists should monitor the assigned frequency for activity.

3.2 If local telephone service is available, the EC, AEC's or SEC should be notified by telephone, in that order until one is located.

3.3 In an emergency in which Amateur Radio might serve the community, Amateur Radio operators may be alerted by any municipal, state or federal government official, or by any official of the agencies listed in part 2.4 of this plan. Such official should notify the EC or AEC as soon as possible.

3.4 A list of persons to contact to activate the ARES will be sent to all agencies in the Cheshire County area that might be interested in availing themselves of the services of the ARES.

4. ARES MOBILIZATION PROCEDURE

4.1 Announcements that a communications emergency exists will be made on The Keene Repeater, and a tone alert may be transmitted.

4.2 The telephone tree will be activated if necessary, if the local telephone service is functioning.

4.3 The Cheshire County ARES Net will be activated on 146.805/- (PL 100Hz) repeater or on 146.805 MHz simplex if the repeater is down.

4.4 Upon awareness of notification that a communications emergency exists, members of the Cheshire County ARES will call into the Cheshire County ARES Net.

4.5 Mobile or portable units will be activated and dispatched. Liaisons to other VHF and HF nets and to packet radio will be assigned as needed, at the discretion of the NCS.

4.6 The EC will assume net control, or delegate another station as Net Control Station (NCS).

5. DUTIES OF THE NCS

5.1 The Cheshire County ARES Net will be activated

5.2 Members of the Cheshire County ARES will be checked into the net from their mobiles and home stations to await further instructions.

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5.3 Liaison stations to other nets, NTS, and NBEMS will be assigned by the NCS as needed, and with the advice of the EC and SEC.

5.4 Mobiles and portables will be dispatched to locations as needed, and as requested by government or agency officials.

5.5 It shall be the duty of the NCS to log all stations, fixed, mobile or portable, and their locations.

6. OPERATIONS

6.1 All formal messages must be written traffic in standard ARRL form, preferably using flmsg.

6.2 All formal messages must be signed by the official who originates them with their title, thereby taking responsibility for their contents. Formal messages are written, signed messages.

6.3 Message precedence's of Emergency, Priority, Welfare and Routine, as defined on ARRL form FSD-218, shall be used on all formal messages.

6.4 Tactical communications need not be in written format, but any such communications an important or urgent nature should be logged with time, date, originator and a brief summary of contents. In lieu of a written log, such information may be audio recorded by NCS or a station appointed by NCS.

6.5 In accordance with good net practice in a directed net, stations will not transmit unless invited to do so by the NCS, or unless they have Emergency or Priority traffic.

7 DRILLS, TESTS AND ALERTS

7.1 An annual test of the ARES will be conducted. If possible, this will be in conjunction with the ARRL Simulated Emergency Test (SET).

7.2 Cheshire County ARES will regularly supply public safety communications in conjunction with local events, such as marathons, bike-a-thons, and fire schools, to test the effectiveness of the operation, and to supply a public service to the community.

7.3 The Cheshire County ARES Net meets every third Wednesday at 1930 local time on the 146.805/- MHz. Repeater. Information on ARES activities will be presented and discussed.

7.4 At the discretion of the SEC and the EC, other drills and activities may be implemented during the year, either announced or unannounced.

The NH-ARES SEC or next in line NH-ARES representative must be contacted as soon as possible at the beginning of an activation!

Please see the NH-ARES activation list.

