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Southern Grafton County New Hampshire Area ARES (SGARES) Communication Plan

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.01 The purpose of this communications plan is to provide a framework for conducting SGARES emergency communications operations, with integration into the statewide communication plan.
- 1.02 The purpose of ARES is to provide communication and related services for public and private agencies during communications emergencies, and in support of non-emergency public service activities.

2.0 DEFINITIONS

- 2.01 **ARES Groups:** ARES subdivisions within the New Hampshire Section. Each local group serves specific towns and cities, and is managed by an Emergency Coordinator (EC).
- 2.02 **ARES NET:** Networks operated to handle message traffic for served agencies, and to support ARES Operations. Nets will also be operated for training purposes on a regular basis.
- 2.03 **Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES):** A volunteer organization sponsored by the American Radio Relay League (ARRL) to provide communications in times of emergency. All ARES volunteers are FCC licensed Amateur Radio operators, who have registered their capabilities and equipment and have been trained to serve as emergency communicators. ARES is a registered ARRL trademark.
- 2.04 **American Radio Relay League (ARRL):** National membership organization that promotes and supports the Amateur Radio Service in the United States. Membership is open to all – full membership is open to anyone who holds a valid Amateur Radio Service license.
- 2.05 **Amateur Radio Service:** As defined in Part 97 of the Federal Communications Commission rules and regulations; "voluntary noncommercial communication service, particularly with respect to providing emergency communications".
- 2.06 **Client or "Served" Agencies:** Governmental or non-profit agencies and organizations with which NHARES or the ARRL has formal agreements to serve during a declared or non-declared emergency or event.
- 2.07 **ESF-2:** Emergency Support Function – 2. Guidelines set forth by the State of New Hampshire, outlining the procedures used, and resources available during an emergency. The Department of Safety, New Hampshire State Police are the owners of this document.
- 2.08 **New Hampshire Amateur Radio Emergency Service (NHARES):** The ARES organization that has jurisdiction in the New Hampshire Section.

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2.09 New Hampshire Homeland Security and Emergency Management

The state agency that is responsible for emergency command and control during declared disasters and major emergencies for New Hampshire. HSEM is responsible for administering Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES).

2.10 New Hampshire Section: A geographically defined subdivision of the ARRL. The United States, and its possessions are divided into 71 sections, each managed by a Section Manager.

2.11 RACES: (Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service) An FCC-authorized radio communication service used by volunteer licensed Amateurs specifically designed to provide emergency communications to local or state emergency management agencies. Operations under RACES can only be conducted by licensed Amateurs who are registered with a government emergency management agency. RACES is administered by civil authorities and not the ARRL. RACES is used only by the authority of a local or state emergency management agency. Although ARES and emergency management agencies are separate entities, dual membership is encouraged. State and local authorities reserve the right to select and approve of those who operate under their authority. The State of New Hampshire RACES Officer is the EM-appointed administrator of the State RACES program

2.12 Rapid Response Team (RRT): A group of local ARES members formed to provide rapid deployment for establishing initial communications links.

2.13 Rapid Emergency Deployment Team (RED Team): A rapid response team comprised of ARES RRT Members from across the state formed to provide rapid deployment for establishing initial communication links, or backup to any local ARES jurisdiction within New Hampshire.

2.14 SGARES: (Southern Grafton Amateur Radio Emergency Service) A geographic region in the southern half of Grafton County, New Hampshire, including the communities of Canaan, Dorchester, Enfield, Etna, Grafton, Groton, Hanover, Lebanon, Lyme, Orange, and West Lebanon.

3.0 ARRL/NHARES/SGARES LEADERSHIP POSITIONS

3.01 Assistant Emergency Coordinator (AEC) - an ARES communicator who assists an EC. This person is appointed by the EC.

3.02 Assistant Section Emergency Coordinator (ASEC) a NHARES leadership official who is responsible for managing specific ARES programs at the direction of the SEC. This person holds the ARRL/NHARES leadership position of EC/DEC. The SEC appoints this person.

3.03 District Emergency Coordinator (DEC): An ARES leadership official who has the responsibility for a District within an ARES Section. The SEC appoints this person. New Hampshire does not presently have any Districts.

3.04 Emergency Coordinator (EC) - an ARES communicator who has leadership responsibility for the ARES group with responsibility for a defined group of towns and cities. The SEC appoints this person.

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3.05 **Section Emergency Coordinator (SEC):** ARRL leadership official who is appointed by the Section Manager to oversee ARES operations in the section. The SEC is the primary point of contact for client agencies of NHARES.

3.06 **Section Manager (SM):** Elected official of the ARRL responsible for the operation of a section.

4.0 NHARES OPERATIONAL ROLES

4.01 **ARES Communication Officer (ACO)** – The ARES official who coordinates the response of NHARES during an incident or drill, usually the SEC or his/her designate. This person is assigned the FCC call sign K1CMD.

4.02 **Local ARES Coordinator (LAC)** - The ARES official who coordinates the response within a local ARES jurisdiction/area during an incident or drill, usually the EC or his/her designate.

4.03 **NHARES Communicator:** All registered NHARES volunteers, active or reserve.

4.05 **Official Emergency Station (OES)** - is a recognized operator whose station has a base station that can operate independently of commercial power, and has mobile capability. The SEC makes this appointment.

5.0 EMERGENCY CLASSIFICATIONS AND ACTIVATION

5.01 **Level 1:** A potential for a communication emergency exists. Members should monitor their local SGARES net frequencies and email for information on the anticipated condition, and possible activation notices.

5.02 **Level 2:** An unusual condition or non-declared emergency exists that has caused state or local officials to declare a warning. All SGARES members should monitor the local net, and email for additional information on activation. The LAC will initiate the local area SGARES net and assign liaison communications with NHARES by HF, UHF/K1JY, and/or Winlink2000. Members will be instructed to check into their local SGARES nets and be prepared to volunteer their services and resources. The situation is very likely to develop into Level 3 activation where assignments will be made.

5.03 **Level 3:** The highest state of alert. A communications emergency exists and the need for volunteer operators and radio resources have been requested. The LAC will initiate the local area SGARES net and liaison communications with NHARES. Members will be instructed to check into their local SGARES net, be prepared to volunteer their services, and will be given assignments. The SGARES LAC will appoint a liaison to check into the statewide HF net, UHF net, and Winlink 2000. This level of activation may include the state or local government declaring “A state of emergency” where only NH HSEM or locally registered members may participate in operations at certain facilities.

6.0 NEW HAMPSHIRE ARES – EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COOPERATION

6.01 In New Hampshire, ARES and state/local emergency management agencies’ (EMA) Amateur Radio/RACES operations are separate entities that are designed to work together seamlessly. EMA operators have received additional training as determined by the civil authority that has registered them.

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6.02 When an emergency is declared by the State of New Hampshire that requires the activation of NH HSEM registered radio operators, they act on behalf of the Governor at the direction of HSEM. Those ARES operators who were previously qualified to work at HSEM may be asked to switch roles. These operators may be asked to man certain designated State of New Hampshire Communications positions including operating non-Amateur Radio communications systems, telephone systems or shadowing key emergency response operations personnel. This position will require advanced NH HSEM-sponsored training. Under the guidelines of ESF-2, a HSEM request for ARES resources is to be made by the Director of Emergency Management (or designee) to the NHARES Section Emergency Coordinator.

7.0 LOCAL PLAN INTEGRATION

7.01 All SGARES plans are to be integrated with the NHARES plan and must be submitted to the SEC with the revision date marked. Plans should be reviewed quarterly to insure accuracy.

7.02 SGARES should try, when possible, to maintain a Rapid Response Team, with members responding within two hours of activation and establish basic communications for served agencies. One member of each team should be assigned as a member of the Section RED Team.

8.0 LOCAL ARES ACTIVATION AND DEACTIVATION

8.01 Any amateur who suspects a communications emergency exists should contact the SGARES EC as soon as possible. Failing that, one of the SGARES designated AECs should be contacted.

8.02 The EC or designee will authorize the activation of their group as appropriate. Email may be used to initiate a level I activation. The SGARES Call up list should be used for Levels 2 and 3, in addition to email.

8.03 The EC, or designee, will activate the group notification plan and initiate a local net on the assigned repeater or simplex frequency, as appropriate.

8.04 The EC will act as, or appoint an LAC, to manage emergency operations.

8.05 The SGARES net(s) will act as a stand-alone net unless additional resources are required to support the other local areas or NHARES activity. Additional nets may be required to coordinate the management of resources into, and out of, the affected area.

8.06 The EC or LAC will contact the SEC should additional resources be required to support served agencies within their jurisdiction. The LAC may request activation of the Red Team directly. It will be the responsibility of the SEC, or designee, to activate additional ARES groups to support activities within the affected area.

8.07 If the activation is contained to their local area, it will be the responsibility of the EC or designated LAC to de-activate the local net and the SGARES activation or drill activities, as the conditions warrant. Under no circumstances shall SGARES self-terminate from an activation or drill without the approval of the EC or designated LAC.

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8.08 The EC or designee will notify the Section Emergency Coordinator of all local activations within 8 hours of the beginning of the activation or as soon as possible.

9.0 STATE ARES ACTIVATION

9.01 Level I activations may be made via email. The Activation Plan (Attachment A, NHARES communications plan) will be used for all Level 2 and 3 activations.

9.02 The SEC may activate NHARES after notification by a client agency, or by local NHARES leadership, that a communications emergency exists.

9.03 The SEC will act as, or appoint, an ACO to manage emergency operations at the state level.

9.05 A NHARES statewide coordination net will be initiated and maintained for the duration of the emergency.

9.06 Each affected NHARES group will appoint a liaison to the statewide HF net when a Level 2 or Level 3 activation is declared.

10.0 STATE ARES DE-ACTIVATION

10.01 NHARES and all nets associated with the activation will operate until the termination notice is given by the ACO on behalf of the SEC. The termination notice will be given on the statewide NHARES coordination net and will be relayed to all activated groups.

10.02 If the situation warrants, a NHARES group can request to terminate operations prior to the NHARES termination notice being given by the ACO. The ACO will evaluate the situation, and if appropriate, permit early termination from the activation or drill. Under no circumstances should any NHARES group self-terminate during an activation or drill without the approval of the ACO.

10.03 At the conclusion of all NHARES activations, NHARES and local group leadership will meet within seven days to perform and after action review.

11.0 NET AND MESSAGE HANDLING PROTOCOLS

11.01 If the type of emergency dictates very rapid communication of brief messages *directly to recipients*, it is permissible to operate in a “tactical” style and use an informal verbal message format.

11.02 When messages are not to be delivered directly to the addressee or are anything other than a very brief tactical message, they must be written down and then converted to the appropriate ARRL format and sent with an appropriate mode. If messages are to be sent via the ARRL National Traffic System, the ARRL Radiogram format must be used.

11.03 All nets will operate as Directed Nets.

12.0 TRAINING

12.01 SGARES members are encouraged to participate in ARRL Amateur Radio Emergency Communication

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Certification courses to ensure that members are qualified to assist in an emergency.

12.02 Local ARES nets will be established according to their plans on their assigned or backup frequencies unless directed to do otherwise.

12.03 Training plans will be reviewed on a quarterly basis and updated as necessary.

12.04 Should on-air training contain a disaster simulation scenario, the words ***“this is a drill”*** must be used, at the beginning and end of each transmission for the duration of the drill, and periodically during transmission of long messages, regardless of the transmission mode.

12.06 All training should prepare members to effectively implement the communications plan.

13.0 CLARIFICATIONS

13.1 The information contained in this plan is to be used as a guide. It is not the intent of this document to limit any operations or plans. Any conflicts between this plan and the NHARES plan must be reconciled and approved by the NHARES SEC and the SGARES EC.

13.2 SGARES is organized to provide communications services only. Radio operators on duty are under no obligation to serve in any other capacity. Any operator who chooses to serve in a different capacity or function must first seek approval from the SGARES LAC prior to leaving SGARES control to perform in another function.

13.3 The authenticity, correction and additions of all messages are the sole responsibility of the originating authority. SGARES operators are not permitted to alter the content of a message without the authorization of the originating authority. The content of all messages should be considered confidential, as permitted by the scope and type of the communications emergency. It should be noted that some communications in an emergency is considered to be strictly confidential and unsuitable for some types of amateur radio communications.

13.4 A radio operator should report conditions as he observes them. Such observations are considered those of a layperson and should be treated in that context.

13.5 Membership: Any licensed Amateur may apply for membership in SGARES. Certain leadership positions are restricted to ARRL members. In accordance with ARRL policy, SGARES leadership may accept or reject any application with or without cause. Applicants may be required to undergo a background check before providing certain services to certain served agencies.

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14.0 FREQUENCIES

The Frequencies used are based on the State plan and local repeaters.

The primary repeaters are located in Hanover, NH on Moose Mountain.

The primary VHF repeater frequency is 145.330 minus (-) offset .600 100 Hz PL

The primary UHF repeater frequency is 443.550 plus (+) offset 5.000 136.5 Hz PL

The Secondary VHF repeater frequency is 147.150 plus (+) offset .600 no PL

The SGARES Tactical simplex frequency is 146.580

The second alternate VHF repeater is on Mt. Ascutney on 146.760 minus offset .600 PL 110.9

The portable repeater frequency is 147.120 plus (+) offset .600 100 Hz PL

NHARES and other NHARES areas and the Red Team may be reached using the K1JY system.

Local Moose Mountain access is on 441.950 plus (+) offset 88.5 Hz PL

The Statewide Primary Tactical frequency is 147.510.

The primary Nighttime HF frequency for statewide communication is 3.943 +/-

The primary Daytime HF frequency for statewide communications is 7.273 +/-

The primary packet frequency is 145.570

The primary Nighttime PSK freq. for statewide communications is 3582 USB

The primary Daytime PSK freq. for statewide communications is 7072 USB

The packet frequency for Moose Mountain coverage is 145.570 for W1FN-8 Digipeater or W1FN-7 as a KA-node.

Also, WB1BRE-7 as the central Ka-node on 145.570

WB1BRE (145.570) or W1FN-8 (145.570) is used as the digipeater for packet operations.

The primary packet path to West Rutland is thru KA-node WB1BRE-7 and then thru KA-node WG1Q-7 on 145.570.

K1SGA-10 Winlink 2000 RMS packet station in Etna is on 145.570 1200 baud packet

K1SGA Winlink 2000 HF RMS Pactor station 1, 2 on 3596, 7063, 10122, and 14101.2. Pactor 3 7103.2, 10145, and 14101.2 Center frequencies

KB1MRB-10 1200-baud packet RMS packet station in Hanover on 145.570

W1FN-10 1200-baud packet RMS packet station in Canaan on 145.570

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Echolink is available on the .330 primary repeater. To link the .330 repeater to any echolink station send the DTMF tones "C" followed by the echolink station number. To Disconnect, send the tone "D". To disconnect any and all links send "DA". To check on the status send "08". Conferencing up to 3 stations is allowed. The K1JY-R statewide system is 1118.

15.0 PACKET/DIGITAL PROCEDURES/SOFTWARE

The latest version of the program Airmail is the standard packet and HF digital software used for all SGARES packet and HF digital operations.

Southern Grafton County Leadership Call-Up List:

Calling Priority is in the order listed. EC should be the first called. Failing that, the first AEC and so on. Members with RRT in front of their call signs are part of the local Rapid Response Team (RRT).

EMERGENCY COORDINATOR

AA1KL REX G CARR 341 DOGFORD RD ETNA NH 03750

rexgcarr@wildblue.net, aa1kl@arrl.net D 603-643-5254 N 603-643-4329 C 603-252-7152

ASSISTANT EMERGENCY COORDINATOR

NIHAC DAVID G MCGAW 185 Roberts Road CANAAN NH 03741

david@endor.com D/N 603-523-9606 C 603-359-2268

TRAINING ASSISTANT EMERGENCY COORDINATOR and RRT MEMBER

KB1MOV Bill Brown 4 Storrs Road, Hanover, NH 03755 W 603-232-9108

H 603-643-6639 bill.brown.tu78@alum.dartmouth.org

RRT Team Leader WB9MHI Dean Sorenson, 97 Wellington Circle, Lebanon, NH, 03766

deansorenson@comcast.net H 603-448-5393 D 603-643-7065 C 603-667-6065

RRT N0JSR James Dean POB 5247 West Lebanon, NH 03784

603.448.6658 (W) 603.443.3337 (C) jcdean@sover.net

RRT KX1Y William Daugherty 812 Route 12A, Plainfield, NH 03781

william@will-do.com D/C 603-359-3745 H 603-675-5940 P 603-248-8714

ASSISTANT SECTION EMERGENCY COORDINATOR

WA1ZCN Dave Colter W 763-4982 H 763-4976 C 344-6399

dbcolter@verizon.net

ACTING SECTION EMERGENCY COORDINATOR

K1AKS Al Shuman POB 681 New Boston, NH 03070

H 603-413-6605/603-763-4666 W 603-675-1092 C 603-487-3333

k1aks@arrl.org akshuman@comcast.net al@nhradio.org

(W) Include in subject "ARES" ashuman@epcorp.com

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SGARES NET PROCEDURE

PREAMBLE:

This is (call sign of net control operator), net control for the Southern Grafton Area ARES emergency net. This is a directed net. Stations will check into this net only when requested to do so by the net control station. All protocols for a directed net will be followed for the duration of this net. The only exception to these protocols is for emergency traffic.

At the conclusion of this event, the net control station will terminate this net. Any stations that wish to secure from the net prior to termination must first contact net control.

CHECK-INS:

(Net control operator's call sign) is now calling all stations from Southern Grafton Area ARES to check into this net. The NCS will then take check-ins and periodically call for check-ins again.

PURPOSE:

(The NCS will now conduct the net for the purpose it was activated. This could be for training, a drill, and information or to serve a client agency during an actual event. If the purpose of this event is a drill, all transmissions must be preceded, and ended, by "THIS IS A DRILL".)

CLOSING:

I would like to thank all stations that checked into this net. Our thanks also go to the club and managers of this repeater for allowing us to use it for our operations.

This is (net control operator's call sign) terminating the Southern Grafton Area ARES emergency net and returning the [repeater or frequency] back to normal amateur use.

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NH ARES/SGARES POSITION DESCRIPTIONS

Objective:

Establish standard job descriptions and standards that ensure NH ARES members are trained, experienced, and qualified to assist in a communications emergency.

Responsibilities / Expectations:

LEADERSHIP POSITIONS:

Section Emergency Coordinator: **(ARRL Membership Required)**

- Responsible for the NH ARES Program, establishing statewide goals and objectives.
- Maintain statewide ARES roster, communications plan, web page and email list server.
- Manages client agency MOU's & liaison with VOAD, ARC, NWS, MARS & NHOEM
- ARRL Level 3 Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Certification (ARECC).

Assistant Section Emergency Coordinator: **(ARRL Membership Required)**

- May be assigned to manage the NH ARES program in the absence of the SEC.
- Manages identified programs, initiatives and projects as directed by the SEC.
- Responsible for the organization of quarterly ARES drills.
- Minimum ARRL ARECC Level 2 certification.

Emergency Coordinator: **(ARRL Membership Required)**

- Responsible for management of their district ARES program, makes AEC assignment's as necessary.
- Manages their district to meet the goals and objectives of the statewide ARES plan.
- Develops and maintains local emergency communication plan.
- Communicates with members weekly (nets, drills, meetings or email).
- Provides general emergency training at least once per month.
- Reports monthly and after all drills and activations.
- Documents members in their district progress meeting the objectives of the NH ARES program.
- Minimum ARRL ARECC Level 2 certification.

Assistant Emergency Coordinators: **(ARRL Membership Required)**

- May be assigned to manage the local ARES program in the absence of the EC.
- Assists with nets, drills, client agency liaison, or other duties as assigned by the EC.
- Minimum ARRL ARECC Level 1 certification.

Official Emergency Stations: **(ARRL Membership Required)**

- Responsibilities of ARES Communicator.
- Provides one or more specialized services to NHARES operations.
- Participate in three of the quarterly drills per year, exercise emergency powered stations.
- Minimum ARRL ARECC Level 2 certification.

NON-LEADERSHIP POSITIONS

Active Member:

- Maintains ARES registration, contact & resources information via the ARES website.
- Participates in drills and events on a regular basis.
- Has achieved or is working on ARECC certifications.
- Is willing and prepared to respond in the event of an emergency.
- Has a 72-hour ready kit prepared and maintained.

Reserve Member:

- Is not willing to be active on a regular basis.
- Is willing to be called to help in the event of an emergency or major event.
- Understands that expedient training will be given on the job, as needed.
- Is aware that reserve members will most likely perform less critical tasks and not be placed in positions of authority or responsibility.

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Local Rapid Response Team (RRT) Member:

- Active member.
- Has at least Level 1 certification.
- Has employer's permission to deploy from work when activated.
- Maintains equipment and self ready to respond within two hours or less, day or night.

Section Rapid Emergency Deployment Team Member (RED Team):

- Responsibilities of Active Member, plus:
- Maintains high standard of training and overall readiness.
- Maintains total readiness for deployment within one hour of activation.
- Has employer's permission to deploy from work when activated.
- Minimum ARRL ARECC Level 2 certification.

OPERATIONAL TITLES

These operational "job titles" are to be used during any event when the person with daily responsibility may or may not be available. For instance, if the SEC is not available for any reason, the person acting in his or her place will assume the time of "ARES Communications Officer."

ARES Communications Officer (ACO) – The ARES official who coordinates the response of NHARES during an incident or drill, usually the SEC or his/her designate. This person is assigned the FCC call sign K1CMD (attachment G).

Local ARES Coordinator (LAC) - The ARES official who coordinates the response within a local ARES jurisdiction during an incident or drill, usually the EC or his/her designate.

For any other job title, simply put the word "event" in front of the usual title. For instance: "Event Net Manager."

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NHARES SPECIFIC CALL SIGNS

NH-specific local ARES call signs are designated for use with Winlink, and by local area stations acting as liaison to NHARES. The calls may be used for local net NCS stations at the EC's discretion.

Calls assigned to specific officials (W1SEC, K1CMD, K1NCS) are to be used only by the person filling that operational position at any given time.

Liaison stations to the Section (state-wide) net will use a tactical call indicating their area, i.e. "Cheshire County" and ID with NH-specific local ARES call signs only as required by FCC rules (at the end of each exchange, and at ten minute intervals for longer exchanges).

W1CPL	Capital Area
W1CEN	Central NH
K1CHR	Cheshire County
W1COS	Coos County
W1ROC	East Rockingham County
K1MHT	Greater Manchester Area
K1HIL	Hillsborough County
W1GRF	South Grafton
K1STF	Strafford County
W1SUL	Sullivan County
K1CMD	NHARES Command
K1NCS	NHARES Net Control Station
W1RTM	NHARES Red Team
W1SEC	NHARES Section Emergency Coordinator

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NHARES AND SGARES SERVED AGENCIES

The ARRL NH Hampshire Section has a Memorandum of Understanding with:

- New Hampshire Department of Safety, Bureau of Emergency Management

The ARRL has national Memoranda of Understandings (MOU) with the below listed client agencies.

- American Red Cross (ARC)
- National Weather Service (NWS)
- Federal Emergency Management Agency
- Department of Homeland Security
- Association of Public Safety Communication Officers (APCO)
- The Salvation Army
- National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters (NVOAD)

SGARES works closely with the Town of Lebanon and Hanover, as part of their emergency response.

SGARES is also committed to serving the towns of Canaan, Dorchester, Enfield, Etna, Grafton, Groton, Lyme, Orange, and West Lebanon.

Because the Southern Grafton County area has a border with Vermont, we are also committed to serve the border Vermont communities at the request of the Vermont Amateur Radio Emergency Service.

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NH ARES RAPID EMERGENCY DEPLOYMENT (RED) TEAM

The purpose of the RED team is to assist NH ARES in meeting its mission to provide timely, professional-grade backup communications to our client agencies.

NH ARES RED Team Mission Statement

The RED Team will enable NH-ARES to quickly establish initial communication links for served agencies by providing a rapid response to an agency's call for assistance.

How does the RED Team fit in?

The RED Team is not a separate organization, but an integral part of NH-ARES. Its mission is in perfect alignment with the Mission and Vision Statements of NH-ARES. It shares the same Section leadership, draws from the same members, shares the same training goals, and serves the same client agencies.

Organization

All RED Team members will be active members of their home area's Rapid Response Team (RRT). In state-wide activations, or when the emergency is in the member's home area, their first responsibility will be to the local RRT. If a RED Team response is required *in addition* to a state-wide activation, ECs may be asked to release members for RED Team duty. This might occur when another area has not effective ARES organization, or when NHBEM requires specialized support.

Modes of Operation

Getting nets on the air quickly: RED Team members can get the Section Net on the air quickly and establish key links until other ARES resources can be activated.

Assisting in local areas: When local resources are inadequate, the services of the RED Team can be requested by affected ECs, and work under his or her direction. In areas without an active EC, the SEC will direct the RED Team.

Providing direct agency support: For certain events, a served agency, such as BEM, may only require a small state-wide team. The RED Team can fill this need.

Purpose

The RED Team is a small group of dedicated, skilled, and ready responders who can rapidly set up basic radio communication networks under difficult circumstances.

- They can put the initial ARES coordination net on the air within an hour of activation,
- provide a short-term local response when requested by an EC until local ARES teams can respond within three hours of activation,
- serve areas of the state where a local ARES organization does not exist,
- can act as a short-term ARES Mutual Assistance Team (ARESMAT) to quickly assist neighboring Sections until other ARESMAT resources can be mustered.

The team is comprised of experienced ARES members from across the state, with at least one member from each local ARES group's Rapid Response Team. They must make a commitment to continued readiness and education, be dedicated to excellence, and have permission from their employers to respond when needed. Members must be committed to maintaining a high state of readiness.

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Leadership

The RED Team will be directed by an Emergency Coordinator (EC) appointed by the SEC. The EC may also appoint one or more AECs to act in his or her stead, or to perform certain regular tasks, such as training.

Membership in the RED Team

The RED Team will draw its members from local NH ARES groups' Rapid Response Teams. Interested ARES members may apply to the SEC, and new team members will be chosen from the pool of applicants when an opening on the Team occurs. Members will serve a minimum of six months and must agree to participate in regular training, practice, and remain active in local ARES groups in a non-conflicting position. As members develop expertise, they will share their knowledge with local ARES members, increasing the overall value of the NH ARES membership in time of emergency.

Ideal candidates for the RED team will have the following qualifications:

- Membership in the local area's Rapid Response Team
- Experienced ARES radio operators with multi-mode, multi-band capability.
- Excellent people skills - work well in a team environment.
- Experienced in VHF/UHF and HF portable operation including voice and digital modes.
- Certified to at least ARECC Level One, preferably Level Two.
- Prepared to respond promptly and have permission from employer to do so.
- Can maintain appropriate equipment for rapid response including emergency power, portable antennas, and emergency communications gear. Members will have a pager or cell phone on hand 24/7 for activation messages.
- Bring some area of special expertise to the group. Examples:
 - Traffic Handling
 - Public Service
 - Experience in training, emergency communications, CAP
 - Portable HF experience
 - Operating under field conditions
 - Digital communications
 - Repeater maintenance
 - First aid/CPR training
 - Other hobbies/Skills
 - snowmobiling
 - licensed pilot
 - camping & hiking
 - computer skills
 - electronic repair