

Strafford County N.H. Amateur Radio Emergency Service Communications Plan

Purpose;

To provide procedures, policies and organizational structure for amateur radio operators, performing emergency communications responsibilities, on behalf of the SCARES program. To the extent possible, the procedures and policies developed within will be consistent and complimentary to the NHARES Communications Plan.

Scope;

The policies and procedures contained within this document apply to all radio amateurs, within Strafford County, providing under the auspices of Strafford County ARES regardless of other organizational affiliations.

I. Strafford County ARES;

The Strafford County ARES area of operation consists of all municipalities with in Strafford County also including Wakefield, Brookfield, Union and Sanbornville in Carroll County

Organization;

The program provides a group of core leaders (AECs) to plan, promote, facilitate and interface with the amateur radio community ensure a level of readiness that will allow the SCARES program to be effective in times of emergency. In turn, the SCARES program relies on the amateur radio community for support this important priority. Each AEC has been delegated an area of responsibility. Additional AECs can be designated, the discretion of the Strafford County EC, as the need arises. Here is the current leadership structure:

Emergency Coordinator

Jason Jasper – K1FDP
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Barrington, N.H. 03825
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k1fdp@arrl.net

AEC – Northern County Liaison

Bill Nelson – KA1PTW
99 Lyford Road
Brookfield, NH 03876
603.552.5279 (h)
207.281.2175 (c)

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AEC – Greater Rochester Liaison

Jeffery Zajicek – N1XUQ
5 Outlook Lane
Rochester NH 03867
603.833.1087
n1xuq@ymail.com

AEC- Tri City Liaison

George Whitehead – W1BOF
88 Fourth Street
Dover, NH
603.742.5855 (h)
603.512.5561 ©

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AEC – Digial Communications Liaison

Fred LaVallee – K1ACL
13 Villanova Lane
Rochester, NH
603.332.9107 (h)
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DIGITAL MODES TRAINING

Michael Lavoie – N1AMD
105 Whitehouse Rd – Lot 26
Rochester, NH
603.974.2369

Net Manager

David Allen – KB1NZG
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Rochester, NH
603.948.1991

Responsibilities;

Emergency Coordinator: Overall management of the Strafford County ARES programs; handles and/or delegates media requests; works with a team of leaders to accomplish the goals of the organization; seeks training opportunities for the organization; promotes amateur radio and especially emergency communications; and provides regular updates, and communicates with the NHARES Section Emergency Coordinator (SEC), and local emergency management officials.

AEC – Liaison(s): The Liaison(s), as designated by the EC, will have responsibility for a geographic location within Strafford County. Their primary role will be to develop relationships and educate about ARES with local served agencies, pursue agreements when in the best interest of Strafford County ARES and assist with training and recruiting licensed amateur with their respective communities.

AEC – Digital Liaison: Interface with a technical pool of amateurs that can troubleshoot, install, and repair digital amateur infrastructure; plan for the use of digital modes at strategic communication points; leverage current infrastructure, and encourage the development of new infrastructure to provide emergency communications; provide training on the use of digital modes advise of equipment needs; and provide regular status reports concerning the availability of digital amateur infrastructure.

Exercises & Training:

Strafford County ARES typically provides at least two formal training exercises a year. These drills are typically based on the state-wide Pandemic deployment plan. These exercises gives ARES members the opportunity to enhance their operator skills and emergency power capability. In addition, there are weekly HF and VHF nets provided for additional training. The field organization of the ARRL also provides training opportunities such as Field Day and the Simulated Emergency Test. Clubs and individuals are encouraged to participate in these events. While not required, ARES recommends its membership obtain ICS training either in classroom setting or online at fema.gov. In addition, ARRL provides three levels of emergency communications training. As resources allow, ARES will work with and through the local clubs provide emergency communications training. Each member is responsible for having a personal emergency plan, and ensuring their equipment is in good condition. It is recommended each member evaluate their situation in May of each year.

Served Agencies:

Traditionally, the ARES organization has served many governmental and nonprofit organizations. During a declared emergency, the ARES directed by the local emergency management agency. The EM organization's priority for backup communications becomes ARES priority. resources allow the organization attempts to meet those needs. During non declared emergencies the EC will prioritize and respond to communications needs as resources allow.

II. Tactical Call Sign K1STF;

The tactical call-sign K1STF has been assigned to Strafford ARES for tactical use for inter-area communications. The following outlines the proper use of K1SFT: The call-sign K1STF is never used to identify yourself in a transmission unless you're engaged official ARES communications. However, we will respond to calls to K1STF from stations outside of our local area. Under normal operating conditions, follow protocol for responding. When responding, return your own call followed by "Strafford County ARES". At this point, you've identified yourself by your call-sign and there's no further need to use K1STF.

III. Operating Frequencies

Strafford County ARES uses the following frequencies for training and operational purposes. When we are active, the frequencies will be referred to as Repeater followed by its # or Simplex followed by its #. During activation it may be advisable that we move our net to local simplex since the W1SRA repeater may be needed for wide area coverage to the State EOC in concord.

(Repeater 1) 147.000 - / 100 Deerfield W1SRA
(Simplex 1) 147.570 Simplex
(Packet) 145.010 Packet Airmail K1ACL-10
(Digital) 145.510 NBEMS modes
(Repeater 2) 146.865 - / 88.5 Alton K1JEK
(Simplex 2) 146.490 Simplex

LOCAL OPERATION / ACTIVATION

Notification;

All amateur operators should tune to the primary repeater frequency indicated in the VHF Band Plan (attachment B) to receive information instruction during times of emergency. Each ARES member is expected to have a basic awareness of events taking place that might result emergency or disaster. This could include a mass casualty event, hurricane, flooding or commercial utility failure. In addition, information concerning impending activations and situation updates will be distributed through established e-mail distribution lists

Activation;

The ARES organization will activate upon direction of state or local emergency management, or by the EC, once a request for backup communications has been made; determined to be necessary; cannot be supplied by normal means and resources are available. Other net activations would be for weather reporting for the National Weather Service. Upon activation, the EC will assign a net control station who will initiate a coordination net on the frequency established in the VHF band plan using appropriate alert message (attachment C) for the purpose of coordinating secondary nets; and assigning and dispatching amateurs to provide backup communication. The Net Manager will provide the parameters by which the nets will operate, control the flow of traffic the network, specify message handling requirements and make any other necessary adjustments to ensure smooth traffic flow. Depending nature of the activation, the role of the net and the communications needs may change. For instance, prior to a storm the role of the net almost be exclusive to providing shelter communications. After a storm, the net may be supporting search and rescue, damage assessment, points of distribution. Flexibility and net discipline are key factors in successfully providing effective communications. All amateurs entering the net should transmit unless they are responding to a request from the net control operator. Tactical call signs are to be established for all assigned stations. Also remember, we are providing communications. We do not decide what to communicate or take it upon ourselves to communicate information without authorization.

HF Activities;

Designated HF stations will be contacted by the EC to provide liaison and traffic handling with section nets as well as other emergency The EC will notify the Section level official responsible for HF operations which stations represent Strafford County ARES. The HF band (attachment B) provides a list of those nets and their frequencies. Subsequent to a disaster, HF stations will provide emergency and priority traffic in and out of the area. If time permits, one way health welfare (H&W) messages out of the area may be provided. Incoming H&W will not be accepted without the approval of the EC. <![endif]>

Digital Activities;

Digital modes afford increased operating efficiencies when the proper resources and training is available. It is the goal of the ARES program leverage digital modes to the extent possible to provide emergency communications. Upon activation, the AEC - Digital Coordinator will provide the EC with an assessment of the digital capabilities within the county and the feasibility of using them. The AEC - Digital Coordinator may establish a limited and strategically place digital mode stations to facilitate ARES digital operations.

Mutual Aid;

During extended operations, mutual aid may be needed to provide relief for local operations. Mutual Aid coming into Strafford County coordinated at the Section level. All requests will be coordinated with the NHARES Section Emergency Coordinator. Teams coming into Strafford County will stage at a location determined by local emergency management or the Strafford County EC. All mutual aid teams be self sustaining for at least 72 hours. In addition, at a minimum, each mutual aid team should have a high powered VHF radio, antenna, emergency power supply, such as a generator or automotive battery. Teams will be dispatched as needed and given appropriate information about their assignment