

ATTACHMENT K EXPEDIENT TRAINING FORM

New Hampshire ARES

Expedient Training for Walk-In Emcomm Volunteers

Welcome and thank you for volunteering. Hopefully you have had some emergency communications experience and training prior to this event. This document is not intended to make you an expert but rather to give you some essential basics that will apply to most emergency communications events. We encourage you to take ARRL Emergency Communications course after this is over so that you will better appreciate the many recent changes in established emergency communication procedures, and to participate in periodic drills, tests and other NH-ARES training as they are offered from time to time.

Our Relationship with the Agencies We Serve

ARES radio operators are essentially volunteers who agree to act as though they are unpaid contractors to the public or non-profit agencies we serve. If you think of the relationship in this way, you can avoid a great many misunderstandings and problems.

Put another way, we work for them. Agencies make their own decisions - we handle their communications and *any related agency tasks we have agreed to and if assigned*. They are in charge of their operations - we are not. Within the limits of our capabilities, agreements, and the FCC rules, we do what they ask of us.

Your Appearance

You should be as neat and clean as you can be under the circumstances. Avoid any inappropriate clothing, such as novelty t-shirts, funny hats, etc. Think of how you would be expected to dress if you were a regular employee of the served agency, and do your best to come close with the clothes you have with you. NH-ARES ID clothing may be worn if you own it. (No other uniforms should be worn unless they are provided for you by the agency, please.)

Take Care of Yourself

Depending on available resources, ARES net and operations managers may schedule breaks and down-time for food, personal needs, and sleep. Each event and location is different. If you have special medical or food needs or limitations, be sure to let the person in charge of emcomm volunteers know. Be aware that they may have many conflicting demands and may not be able to meet your needs right away or at all.

Do not let yourself become over-tired. This is a guaranteed way to reduce your effectiveness. Avoid hero syndrome - working non-stop triple shifts is not good for you, or for the operation. Tired operators make mistakes and can become a direct or indirect danger to themselves and others. Ask permission to go off the air to get rest if you have to.

Take time for rest, food, cleanup, and personal needs. Take any needed medications. If you cannot take a bath, use deodorant if you have it. Do your best to maintain a neat and professional appearance.

Net Operations

Several different types of nets may be in operation. If you are not familiar with how emergency nets work, please ask someone who is trained and experienced for a quick lesson. We will try to cover the basics here.

Net Styles

Formal - Also called a directed net. All transmissions and activity on the net are directed by the Net Control Station operator (NCS), who acts much like a traffic cop for the network. Listen to the net carefully to learn the procedures being used. In most all cases, you will need to ask the NCS for permission to call another station, and list the type and number of messages you have for that location. You may be asked to move to another frequency to pass your messages if you have many, or if the net frequency is busy. Once you have passed the messages, return to the net frequency and notify the NCS.

Informal - Also called a non-directed net. There is usually no NCS, or if there is one, he or she only steps in when needed. Informal nets are used mostly in low traffic situations or with only a few stations.

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