

Press Backgrounder **Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Support**

Amateur Radio Emergency Service®
ARRL – The National Association for Amateur Radio® – Newington, CT

What is Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Support?

In addition to being an interesting and multi-faceted hobby, the federally licensed Amateur or “ham” Radio Service provides communications support for major emergencies of all kinds.

Anytime a government agency, NGO, or hospital in New Hampshire has lost or overloaded their regular means of communication, members of the New Hampshire Amateur Radio Emergency Service (NH-ARES) are available to assist by providing radio links and technical assistance. Available modes support both short and long-range voice and data transmission.

All services are provided at no cost as required by federal law. Individual Amateur Radio Operators donate their time and the use of their personal equipment, in many cases, taking time away from work and families to do so.

Why Do Hams Do This?

Ham radio operators have always been a public-spirited group. From the beginning, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has encouraged hams to provide public service communications to non-profit organizations and government agencies.

As a result, the Amateur Radio community has always made a strong commitment to helping the public. Many hams are also members of the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES), a national program sponsored by ARRL – The National Association for Amateur Radio, the largest ham radio membership organization in the world. Since 1910, hams have been providing emergency communication services to various government and non-government disaster relief agencies.

As an ESF-2 (Emergency Support Function) agency, ARES in New Hampshire provides backup emergency communication support to the Department of Safety’s Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Management, the New Hampshire Hospital Association, the National Weather Service, the American Red Cross, and a large number of towns and cities across the state.

Hams train for this service year round. Many take special emergency communication and FEMA Incident Command System courses. Others may also be trained in specialized tasks, such weather spotting, disaster intelligence reporting, or operating agency-owned communication systems.

For More Information:

**More local information and contacts are available at www.nh-ares.org and www.arrl-nh.org
For national information and contacts, visit www.arrl.org/pio**