**When All Else Fails®**

Amateur radio operators use their training, skills, and equipment to provide communications during emergencies When All Else Fails®.  Hams serve our communities when storms or other disasters damage critical communication infrastructure, including cell towers, and wired and wireless networks. Amateur radio can function completely independently of the internet and phone systems. An amateur radio station can be set up almost anywhere in minutes. Hams can quickly raise a wire antenna in a tree or on a mast, connect it to a radio and power source, and communicate effectively with others.

**Amateur Radio Emergency Service® (ARES®)**

* [ARES Fact Sheet [PDF]](http://www.arrl.org/files/file/EMCOMM/ARES%20FACT%20SHEET%201.pdf)
* ****[ARES Plan [PDF]](http://www.arrl.org/files/file/EMCOMM/ARES%20Plan%207122b.pdf)
* [ARES Standardized Training Plan Task Book [PDF]](http://www.arrl.org/files/file/EMCOMM/ARRL-ARES-STANDARDIZED-TRAINING-TASK-BOOK-V2_2_1.pdf)
* [ARES Standardized Training Plan Task Book [Fillable PDF]](http://www.arrl.org/files/file/EMCOMM/ARES-TRAINING-TASK-BOOK-v1_2_1_%28Use%20this%29.pdf)
* [ARES Standardized Training Plan Task Book [Word]](http://www.arrl.org/files/file/EMCOMM/ARRL-ARES-STANDARDIZED-TRAINING-TASK-BOOK-V2_2_1.doc)

The Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) consists of licensed amateurs who have voluntarily registered their qualifications and equipment, with their local ARES leadership, for communications duty in the public service when disaster strikes.

**ARES Membership Requirements**

Every licensed amateur, regardless of membership in ARRL or any other local or national organization is eligible to apply for membership in ARES.  Training may be required or desired to participate fully in ARES.  Please inquire at the local level for specific information.  Because ARES is an Amateur Radio program, only licensed radio amateurs are eligible for membership. The possession of emergency-powered equipment is desirable, but is not a requirement for membership.

**How to Get Involved in ARES**

Fill out the [**ARES Registration form**](http://www.arrl.org/files/file/fsd98%282%29.pdf) and submit it to your local Emergency Coordinator.

[**Volunteers Wanted!**](http://www.arrl.org/ares)

* [**If you’re an individual Emergency Communication volunteer…-**](http://www.arrl.org/ares)

• You need to be trained. In order to provide support in the event of an emergency—or even in a non-emergency situation—you need to have the proper training and [**licensing**](http://www.arrl.org/emergency-communications-field-instruction). Learn more about the ARRL [**Emergency Communications Training**](http://www.arrl.org/emergency-communications-training) course.

• You need to be equipped with sustaining skills. What if when you get to a location, there is no food and the sleeping conditions are undesirable? Before you leave on your assignment, you need to make sure you have coping skills that enable you to be able to do your job operating under the conditions you are assigned to—from hardship conditions to making sure you’re able to work the equipment.

• You need to prepare your family for your absence. When you leave home and head for a disaster area, your family has to be both physically and mentally able to cope. After a disaster, when a volunteer comes home, he or she can be confronted by some mental health issues, for which there are several resources. Many volunteers experience everything from fatigue or exhaustion to depression.

• You need to find ways to volunteer. You would first want to become a member of your local ARES, CERT, RACES or local emergency management organization. Then try the [**American Red Cross**](http://www.redcross.org/) or Web sites like [**Ready.gov**](http://www.ready.gov/).

* [**If you’re a member of the ARRL ARES program…+**](http://www.arrl.org/ares)
* [**“What should I bring with me?”+**](http://www.arrl.org/ares)
* [**Where Will Volunteers be Needed?+**](http://www.arrl.org/ares)
* [**Working with government organizations+**](http://www.arrl.org/ares)
* [**Working with non-government organizations+**](http://www.arrl.org/ares)
* **ARRL Field Organization**

Get involved with Amateur Radio Public Service. Learn about the structure of the ARRL Field Organization. [**Learn More**](http://www.arrl.org/field-organization)

* **Field Services Forms**

ARRL offers public service and field service forms for many different needs. [**Learn More**](http://www.arrl.org/public-service-field-services-forms)

* **ARES by Section**

Find your Section Emergency Coordinator and Section Leaders. [**Learn More**](http://www.arrl.org/sections)

* **ARES E-Newsletter**

Sign up for this informative E-Newsletter about Emergency Communications. It's free to ARRL Members. [**Learn More**](http://www.arrl.org/ares-e-letter)