



Heart of TN. A. R. E. S.



Heart of Tennessee
Amateur Radio Emergency Service®

Administration
ADM-0-2

Administration

Amateur Radio Emergency Service® Acronyms and Definitions

1. Introduction

Often, we in the Amateur Radio community will use terms and acronyms not commonly understood. This is true even within the amateur community. We need to provide internal and external users with a guide to those acronyms and to define terms that may require a clear understanding. The purpose of this document is to provide a guide to acronyms used in the Amateur Radio community, specifically as it relates to the Amateur Radio Emergency Service® (ARES®). Also included are terms used in the National Weather Service's SKYWARN program. Definitions are provided to clarify terms where there may be misunderstanding of what is intended.

2. Responsibilities

It is the responsibility of the Assistant Emergency Coordinator for Administration to maintain this document.

It is the responsibility of every author of documentation for Heart of TN ARES® to provide input for the document.

3. Related Publications

None.

4. Definition of Terms

AEC	Assistant Emergency Coordinator – appointed by the EC to assist in managing ARES and its relationships and assigned particular areas of responsibility.
ANCS	Alternate Net Control Station – takes over NCS responsibilities in the event the NCS is unable to continue its responsibilities.
APRS	Automated Packet Reporting System – A digital system that transmits and displays data on computerized mapping programs. Highly effective as a parallel to voice circuits.
ARES®	Amateur Radio Emergency Service® – provides formal structure for offering Amateur Radio services to augment normal communications in the event a disaster warrants and

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	to provide other related communications support. (ARES [®] and Amateur Radio Emergency Service are registered service marks of the American Radio Relay League.)
ARESMAT	ARES Mutual Assistance Team – a team formed within a Section to respond to emergency situations outside the Section or I areas without a local ARES [®] organization, typically to adjacent Sections or areas when resources in that Section or area cannot meet the emergency needs.
ARRL	American Radio Relay League – the national organization of Amateur Radio operators under which the ARES [®] is formed.
CODE ALPHA	Condition ALPHA – Alert status allowing ARES officials at their discretion to shut down operations when they complete their emergency-related duties.
CODE BRAVO	Condition BRAVO – Notice to ARES members to prepare for deployment on very short notice.
CODE CHARLIE	Condition CHARLIE – ARES members are active at assigned duty posts not on standby.
CODE DELTA	Condition DELTA – Maximum level of ARES activation in the Tennessee ARES plan.
CODE NULL	No Alert – Conditions normal.
COMMUNICATIONS EMERGENCY	as defined by the FCC occurs when normal communications systems are disrupted in a specified area.
COUNTY	Any geographical jurisdiction assigned to an EC. For ARES purposes a County may be the entire county or a portion thereof or two or more counties combined under one EC.
DEC	District Emergency Coordinator – an appointee in charge or ARES activities in an LEPD geographic area comprising a District see: http://www.arrl.org/F&ES.field/orf/dec.html Heart of TN ARES [®] is under the DEC for District Four (4).
DISASTER	An event causing death or serious injury to humans or a major loss of property.
DISTRESS TRAFFIC	Any traffic relating to an acute, immediate threat to human safety or property; ie. SOS, MAYDAY, or EMERGENCY traffic.
DISTRICT	corresponds to the geographic area assigned to a DEC .
Downburst	A strong downdraft with an outburst of damaging wind on or near the ground.
DRS	Designated Relay Station – a station assigned to relay information between two operating nets.
EC	Emergency Coordinator - usually supports a geographic area comprised of a county.
EMA	Emergency Management Agency.
EMA DIRECTOR	Emergency Manager – City or County Emergency Manager or Emergency Management.

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EMAIL	Electronic messages exchanged over the Internet or local computer network.
EMERGENCY	Any situation in which human life or property is threatened. The emergency ceases when relief agencies have no further need for our services. (See "Disaster")
EMERGENCY NET	A group of Amateurs using the same frequency and associated side frequencies to support emergency relief measures.
EOC	Emergency Operating Center – an emergency headquarters.
ESF	Emergency Support Function – Each of the 16 ESFs is a group of people in an EOC dealing with specific kinds of problems.
FCC	Federal Communications Commission – regulatory branch of the Federal Government for all communications activity.
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency – a branch of the Federal Government charged with responding to significant disaster events. See: http://www.fema.gov
FEMA and RACES	see: http://www.fema.gov/library/civilpg.htm
FLASH FLOOD	A rapid rise in water, usually within 12 hours of a period of heavy rain or other causative agent (i.e., dam break).
FORMAL TRAFFIC	is written in ARRL message form. It is used when Amateur Radio operators relay information between third parties.
FRS	Family Radio Service – an unlicensed radio service that many families use to keep up with one another in their neighborhoods or on vacation. The typical coverage is around two miles, depending on terrain and obstacles.
FUNNEL CLOUD	A rotating, funnel-shaped cloud extending downward from a thunderstorm base.
Go Kit	A quick reaction kit maintained by the individual amateur radio operator that has basic items needed to respond to an emergency.
GPS	Global Positioning System
HAZMAT	Hazardous Materials
HF	High Frequency – generally considered to be the frequencies from 3 MHz to 30 MHz amateur radio band.
ICS	Incident Command System – an Emergency Management tool being used by Local, State and Federal Agencies.
INFORMAL COMMUNICATIONS	Radio exchanges between two people not requiring verbatim relay to any third party. Classified as non-traffic; not handled on emergency nets.
JUMP TEAM	a group of experienced Amateur volunteers selected and trained to mobilize on very short notice to meet an emergency communication need.



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KEY CITY	A strategic city operating a Liaison station within a specific geographic area providing liaison between activated emergency nets or a Served Agency HQ and the SEOC .
LAN	Local Area Network – used to indicate the packet radio network used by Heart of TN ARES®.
LGL	Local Government Liaison – is an appointment made by the State Government Liaison (SGL) for any specific task.
LIAISON STATIONS	Fixed stations providing liaison between two nets.
MARS	Military Affiliate Radio System.
MCV	HOT ARES® Mobile Communications Vehicle – owned by Heart TN. ARES®.
MHz	Megahertz – one million hertz or one million cycles per second; used to measure frequency.
MTEARS	Middle Tennessee Emergency Amateur Radio Society
NCS	Net Control Station – as defined under the NTS.
NM	Net Manager. See: http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/org/nm.html
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration of the U. S. Department of Commerce – federal agency responsible for weather forecasting, including hurricane and severe storm. Operates the satellite systems used for weather observations from space.
NOVOAD	National Volunteer Organization Active in Disasters – an association of volunteer organizations that respond to disaster emergencies.
NO ALERT	Same as Condition NULL. Normal operations.
NTS	National Traffic System – as defined by the ARRL.
NVIS	Near Vertical Incidence Skywave
NWS	National Weather Service – federal agency responsible for local weather forecasting.
OPLAN	Operations Plan.
PC	Personal Computer
PLANNING STAFF	The planning staff is composed of the EC and all Assistant Emergency Coordinators.
PSCM	ARRL Public Service Communications Manual
Public Service Event	A Public Service event is any non-profit event in which Amateur Radio may be used to provide communications in support of the event. Examples include parades, non-commercial sporting events, etc.
QNC	QN signal for CW or digital net use meaning “All net member stations please copy.” It indicates that the message to follow is of general interest.
RACES	Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service – operates at the county level under direct control of the County Emergency



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- Management Director. Generally not used in conjunction with ARES in Tennessee.
- REACT** Radio Emergency Associated Communications Teams: responsible for developing system of nationwide monitoring of Citizens Band channel 9. Have nationwide license for 151.625 MHz simplex for tactical communications.
- RESPONSE TEAM** A group of Amateur Radio Operators assigned to a particular location or activity as defined in the particular Operations Plan.
- RESPONSE TEAM LEADER** The designated individual assigned as the primary liaison between a Response Team and the Served Agency's senior local representative.
- Riverine Flood** Flooding that is the gradual rise and fall (greater than 12 hours) of a stream or river. This is opposed to the sudden rise of a flash flood.
- RT** Response Team
- RTL** Response Team Leader
- SEC** Section Emergency Coordinator – Official responsible for all ARES activities within a Section: in this case, for the entire State of Tennessee. See: <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/org/sec.html> and <http://www.tnarrl.org>
- SECM** ARRL Special Events Communications Manual
- SEOC** State Emergency Operations Center located in Nashville.
- SECONDARY NET** A communications channel associated with the primary emergency net used for traffic handling and other time-consuming net business.
- SECTION** An administrative unit headed by an elected Section Manager (SM). The Tennessee Section includes the entire geographical area of the State of Tennessee and no additional geographical areas. See: <http://www.tnarrl.org>
- SERA** Southeastern Repeater Association – coordinating body for repeaters.
- SERVED AGENCY** A public service agency with which Heart of TN ARES® has established a support agreement through the implementation of a formal Memorandum of Understanding.
- SEVERE THUNDERSTORM** – A storm that produces hail 3/4 inch in diameter or larger and/or wind gusts of 58 mph or more.
- SERVICE INFORMATION** Handling notes attached to a message form.
- SERVICE MESSAGE** Radiogram relating to handling of another message.
- SET** Simulated Emergency Test
- SGL** State Government Liaison is an appointment made by the Section Manager. The role is that of interface between amateur radio and all facets of state government. See: <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/org/sfl.html>



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SIDE FREQUENCY	Secondary Net.
SIT REP(S)	Situation Report(s). Message reporting status of emergency-related activities.
SKYWARN	A program sponsored by the National Weather Service of volunteer severe weather spotters. In Rutherford County there are both ARES [®] and non-ARES [®] spotter groups.
SM	Section Manager – the Tennessee Section Manager in particular, who is responsible for ARRL activities, including ARES [®] , within the Section, including the appointment of individuals to assist in those activities. See: http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/orf/sm.html
SOG	Standard Operating Guideline. SOG's are a set of instructions having the force of a directive, covering those features of operations that lend themselves to a definite or standardized procedure without loss of effectiveness. They are normally approved by the Emergency Coordinator.
STM	Section Traffic Manager see: http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/org/stm.html
SSID	Secondary Station Identification
TAPR	Tucson Amateur Packet Radio Corporation.
TEMA	Tennessee Emergency Management Agency. See: http://www.tnema.org
TACTICAL TRAFFIC	Spoken instructions or consultations on the air. No third party communication occurs.
TNC	Terminal Node Controller – used to interconnect a radio with a terminal device such as a personal computer running terminal software.
TORNADO	A violently rotating column of air attached to a thunderstorm and in contact with the ground.
TRAFFIC	Any exchange of information between two or more Amateur Radio stations.
TRAFFIC LOGS	A list of incoming and outgoing traffic at an Amateur station.
UHF	Ultra High Frequency – generally considered to be the frequencies from 300 MHz to 3000 MHz. This includes the frequencies in the 440 MHz amateur radio band.
VHF	Very High Frequency – generally considered to be the frequencies from 30 MHz to 300 MHz. This includes the frequencies in the 6-meter, 2-meter and 220 MHz amateur radio bands.
WARNING	The severe weather event is imminent or occurring in the warned area. Warnings are issued for tornadoes, severe thunderstorms, flash floods, and river flooding.
WATCH	Conditions are favorable for the severe weather event in or near the watch area. Watches are issued for tornadoes, severe thunderstorms, and flash floods.



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5. Release Information

Keith E. Miller SR, N9DGK, Emergency Coordinator, is the author of this document. The date of publication for this document is March 17, 2008, and reflects the latest revisions.