

Emergency Related Definitions

ACS

Auxiliary Communication Service similar to a combined ARES and RACES organizational structure.

AEC

Asst. Emergency Coordinator

APRS

Automatic Packet Reporting System. A digital system that transmits and displays data on maps on computer screens. Highly effective as a parallel to voice circuits

ARES

Amateur Radio Emergency Service headed by the Section Emergency Coordinator (SEC); is part of the ARRL field organization. More information can be found at: <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/pscm/sec1-ch1.html>

ARRL

American Radio Relay League. National Amateur Radio organization dedicated to implementing Part 97 of the FCC regulations.

Blue Alert

Condition Blue. Alert status allowing ARES officials at their discretion to shut down operations when they complete their emergency-related duties.

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 can be a Borough, a portion of a Borough, or a combination of Boroughs.

DEC

District Emergency Coordinator, an appointee in charge of ARES activities in an LEPD geographic area comprising a District see: <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/org/dec.html>

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; i.e. SOS, MAYDAY, or EMERGENCY traffic.

District

corresponds to the State LEPD's geographic area, assigned to a DEC.

EC

Emergency Coordinator. An ARES appointee who supervises emergency planning and operations in a specified geographical area. Reports to the DEC see: <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/org/ec.html>

EM

Emergency Manager. City or Borough Emergency Manager or Emergency Management

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 problem.

FEMA

Federal Emergency Management Agency see: <http://www.fema.gov>

Formal traffic

is written in ARRL message form. It is used when Amateur Radio operators relay information between third parties.

GATEway Stations

Fixed stations providing liaison between two nets.

GPS

Global Positioning System

HAZMAT

Hazardous Materials.

ICS

Incident Command System a management tool being used by State and Federal agencies. <http://www.abarc.net/ICS.html>

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.

Key City

A strategic city operating a GATEway station within a specific geographic area providing liaison between activated emergency nets or a Served Agency HQ and the SECC.

LEPD

Local Emergency Planning District, the basic geographic divisions within the State

LGL

Local Government Liaison is an appointment made by the State Government Liaison (SGL) for any specific task.

NM

Net Manager. see: <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/org/nm.html>

NOAA

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration - Home agency for the National Weather Service. (San Francisco-Monterey Area)

<http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/mtr/>

No alert

same as Condition Green. Normal operations.

NTS

National Traffic System.

NWS Radio

National Weather Service Radio <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/nwr/listcov.htm>

Orange Alert

Condition Orange. ARES members are active at assigned duty posts not on standby.

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 Borough level under direct control of the Borough Emergency Management Director.

FEMA and RACES

see: <http://www.fema.gov/library/civilpg.htm>

Red Alert

Condition Red. Maximum level of ARES activation in the ARES Plan.

Section

ARRL administrative unit headed by elected Section Manager (SM).

SEC

Section Emergency Coordinator. Official responsible for all ARES activities within a Section. see: <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/org/sec.html>

SECC

State Emergency Communications Center located at Ft Richardson see: <http://www.ak.prepared.com/ctoc/secc.htm>

Secondary net

A communications channel associated with the primary emergency net used for traffic handling and other time-consuming net business.

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/sgl.html>

Side Frequency

Secondary Net.

SITREP

Situation Report. Message reporting status of emergency-related activities.

SM

Section Manager see: <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/org/sm.html>

STM

Section Traffic Manager

Tactical traffic

Spoken instructions or consultation on the air. No third party communication occurs.

Traffic

Any exchange of information between two or more Amateur Radio stations.

Traffic Log

A list of incoming and outgoing traffic at an Amateur station.

White Alert

Condition White Notice to ARES members to prepare for deployment on very short notice.