

ARES – Amateur Radio Emergency Service

Presented by Keith Landra VA6KL – EC Calgary ARES

Presented by Vince d'Eon VE6LK/AI7LK - AEC Foothills ARES

Presented to SASTAR January 11 2021

What is ARES?

- * **A**mateur **R**adio **E**mergency **S**ervice
- * Also known as PERC, RACES and REACT in different areas but functionally similar
- * ARES is a public service organization comprised of radio amateurs that delivers communications services during emergencies, natural disasters and communications outages.
- * Provides a *service to served government agencies* typically under some sort of memorandum of understanding

Where is ARES?

- * ARES units are in many places – there are 12 areas with Emergency Coordinators in Alberta
- * Some operate as standalone groups with no formal structure (e.g. Calgary), others operate as clubs/societies, others are embedded within existing Ham Radio clubs/societies (e.g. Foothills ARES)
- * Usually under some sort of geographically-organized reporting structure, ie. Canada -> Alberta -> Calgary

How does it help?

- * Provides an organized communications-smart workforce to assist with communications outages
- * Provides training and exercises to group members to ensure preparedness
- * ARES has the desirable attributes of flexibility, survivability and scalability.

When does it help?

- * On Demand – based on need

Where/how can you help out?

- * Anywhere, albeit within the limitations of radio amateurs, their equipment and propagation/line-of-sight. Radio has no geographic boundaries.

Types of Communications

- **D-Star**
 - Digital voice and can be used as a regular internet, email, router
- **IRLP**
 - Can be used to connect different radios from one area to another
- **APRS**
 - Live tracking of operators and assets.
- **Winlink**
 - A worldwide system of volunteer resources supporting e-mail by radio, with non-commercial links to internet e-mail.
- **HF**
 - Long range communication that works all over the world
- There are many others common modes of communication.

What does ARES expect

- * ARES is a flexible, volunteer-centric organization.
- * There is no minimum level of participation.
- * All our documented procedures, protocols and rules are guidelines, intended to facilitate cooperative communications and to communicate best practices.
- * You should not feel pressured to participate to a greater extent than you are comfortable.
- * We do ask that you show respect and consideration for other ARES participants, who are also volunteers. We're all in this together.

What can you expect from ARES

- * ARES “management”, including your Emergency Coordinator, Assistant Emergency Coordinators, Trainers, and most of the RAC organization, are also volunteers.
- * Their work with ARES is not a job. They do not get paid, and they donate their time to benefit the community.
- * However, even though ARES is an all-volunteer organization, there are certain things you can expect from ARES...

What can you expect from ARES (cont'd)

- * Your private information will be protected
- * Your time and effort will be respected. ARES will try not to waste either.
- * Your effort during exercises and emergencies will be recognized and acknowledged.
- * ARES will do its best to protect your safety and security during operations. That being said, the final responsibility is yours and you must be cautious of your safety at all times. Refuse any assignments or duties that you feel may be too hazardous to your safety.
- * You will have an input into how ARES is run, and the practices that are used; your ARES group is your organization and will also reflect your views and preferences.

How do I prepare?

- * ICS-100 training (minimum)
- * Radiocommunications procedures training and practice
- * EC Certification training
- * Participate in ARES nets, including the role of net control
- * Participate in annual Simulated Emergency Tests
- * SSB Contesting to train your ear
- * Participate in Public Service Events
- * Regularly set up your go-kit equipment. Prerequisite – have a go-kit

Routine ARES Activities

- * Calgary ARES
 - * Monthly meeting over Zoom... 2nd Wednesday @ 7pm
 - * Monthly Calgary ARES Net... 4th Wednesday @ 7pm
 - * Radiocommunications procedures training and practice
 - * RAC ARES training to come
- * Central Alberta ARES
 - * Weekly ARES Net on Sunday's at 8pm
- * Alberta ARES
 - * Annual SET exercise (in the fall)

Review

- Amateur Radio operators are skilled in managing communications.
- Amateur Radio operators volunteer their time and are not paid.
- Public service, actual events and training have prepared amateurs for real time pressures and crises.
- Amateur Radio operators train from remote locations without relying on utilities and are resourceful.
- Any time , Any place

Q & A -- Contact

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Recent Alberta events supported by Radio Amateurs

- * 2016 – Fort McMurray Fire
- * 2015 – Wabasca Fire
- * 2013 – Southern Alberta Floods
- * 2011 – Slave Lake Fire
- * 2005 – Calgary, Edmonton, High River Floods
- * 2000 – Pine Lake Tornado
- * 1995 – High River Flood

TCA

The Canadian Amateur

Alberta Floods: Crisis at High River

Canada's Amateur Radio Magazine La Revue des Radioamateurs Canadiens

SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER 2013 – SEPTEMBRE / OCTOBRE 2013

Fast-moving floodwaters surrounding High River Hospital
three-feet deep at 3 pm on June 20 (Photo: Marian Bryan, AHS)



Situational report meeting at High River EOC
(Photo: Dann St-Pierre, VE6TD)

High River EOC Incident Commander Ross Shapka briefs
Alberta Premier Alison Redford (Photo: Ian Willumsen, VA6IAB)



Ray Boume, VE6LG (centre) updates Vince d'Eon,
VE6LK (right) on EOC status prior to shift change
while Charles Nelder, VA6BCS listens in (left)
Photo: Tom Cox, VE6TOX (AEMA)

NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 2018

TCA

The Canadian Amateur

NOVEMBRE / DÉCEMBRE 2018



Al Thurber, VE1RG, receives Emergency Management
Exemplary Service Award from Minister Ralph Goodale



"Crisis at High River": Five Years Later – Dann St-Pierre,
VE6TD, Vince d'Eon, VE6LK and Ian Willumsen, VA6IAB



Art Horowitz, VE3AH, Frank Bullman, VE2KOL, and Dave
Scott, VE3ZZU, at Net Control for the 2018 MS Bike Tour



Canada's Amateur Radio Magazine La Revue des Radioamateurs Canadiens

Working towards a Canadian Consortium of Emergency Management NGOs



Emergency Communications: A Special Issue of TCA

A debriefing session during the City of Nanaimo's "Rescue on the Rock"



Kitchener-Waterloo ARES participates in Operation "Better Together"



RAC Canada Winter Contest 2018: December 29
Please see the Rules at the back of this eTCA



Dann St-Pierre, VE6TD





Wally Gardiner, VE6BGL

I have never seen
all of this at once
except in a movie





When all else fails, Ham Radio ...

This phrase played through my mind
dozens of times

Humbling to think that we were helping
in this gigantic mess

What's it like in an EOC?



Tom Cox, AEMA, VE6TOX

What's it like in an EOC?



Vince d'Eon, VE6LK

What's it like in an EOC?



Tom Cox, AEMA, VE6TOX



2013 Southern Alberta Flooding

Multiple ARES groups assisted with alternate communication paths to the following locations

- AEMA Provincial Operations Centre - Edmonton
- AHS Calgary Zone EOC – Southport Tower
- AHS Black Diamond Hospital
- AHS High River Hospital
- AHS Lethbridge Hospital
- AHS Medicine Hat Hospital
- High River Firehall – Primary EOC
- Nanton Firehall – Alternate EOC
- Nanton Reception Centre
- Blackie Reception Centre
- Foothills MD Reception Centre



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