

Radio amateurs:

Please volunteer for ARES!

Anyone with an amateur radio licence can register with ARES. There are no dues, and no obligations, other than to help however you can in an emergency.

You don't need to be a member of RAC. You don't need more than a Basic licence. You don't need any special equipment. *Even if you don't own any equipment at all -- we need licensed amateur operators.*

We provide training in emergency communications, traffic handling, and net procedures. We stage annual exercises like Field Day and the Simulated Emergency Test.

To volunteer, contact your local Emergency Coordinator, or contact Radio Amateurs of Canada.

For more information:

ARES is sponsored by Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC), 720 Belfast Road, Suite 217, Ottawa, Ontario K1G 0Z5, telephone 613-244-4367. Visit the RAC web site <http://www.rac.ca>, or email rachq@rac.ca, to find the ARES organization nearest you.



THE AMATEUR RADIO EMERGENCY SERVICE

The Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) is a volunteer organization of amateur radio operators. Since 1935, ARES has provided radio communications in North America in times of need.

In these modern times of cellular phones and the Internet, we take instant communications for granted. *We forget how fragile our communications systems are.*



What does ARES do?

ARES provides emergency radio communications.

When the city of Houston, Texas was flooded in 2001, knocking out telephone service and emergency power -- when the ice storm of 1998 blacked out parts of Quebec and Ontario -- when tornadoes struck Edmonton in 1987, overloading the telephone lines -- when the threat of Y2K loomed -- operators with the Amateur Radio Emergency Service volunteered their services and equipment for the duration.

Every ARES member is licensed by Industry Canada to own, maintain, and operate private radio equipment. We use VHF and UHF radios for local communications, and HF (shortwave) radios for province-wide and international communications. We can use the province-wide network of amateur repeater stations, and the amateur-run National Traffic System (NTS), to send emergency messages.

ARES and NTS are part of the Field Services Organization of Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC).

Municipalities and Emergency Agencies:

Make ARES a part of your emergency plan. When a disaster happens, we can provide extra radio equipment and trained operators.

We do not use or "take over" your communications systems. We offer *supplemental* communications, using our own equipment on our own frequencies. We can, for example, set up a temporary station at an emergency shelter, to handle health and welfare inquiries.

ARES is an official communications provider for the Canadian Red Cross. Emergency Measures Ontario and the Ontario Provincial Police also maintain amateur radio stations for emergency use. And we work closely with Environment Canada and the CANWARN severe weather-spotting network.

Your local contact is the ARES Emergency Coordinator (EC). There are 54 ECs throughout Ontario. Your EC will be happy to meet with

you to explain ARES and discuss your needs.

Community Organizations:

We provide communications for public events. If you're planning a parade, or a walk-a-thon, or any large event, we can provide portable radios and operators.

There is never any charge for our services. This is part of our training as radio operators, and part of our "public service" mission.

Consult with your local ARES Emergency Coordinator to discuss your event, and determine your radio needs.

