

## **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 sometimes 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 Walton ARES to provide input for the document.

### **3. Related Publications**

- None.

### **4. Definition of Terms**

Assistant Emergency Coordinator (AEC) – appointed by the EC to assist in managing ARES, its relationships, and particular areas of responsibility.

Alternate Net Control Station (ANCS) – takes over NCS responsibilities in the event the NCS is unable to continue its operations or responsibilities.

Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials (APCO) -International

Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) – provides formal structure for offering Amateur Radio services to augment normal communications in the event a disaster warrants, and to provide other related communications support. (ARES and Amateur Radio Emergency Service are registered service marks of the American Radio Relay League.)

ARES Mutual Assistance Team (ARESMAT) – a team formed within a Section to respond to emergency situations outside the Section or in areas without a local ARES organization; typically to adjacent Sections or areas when resources in that Section or area cannot meet the emergency needs.

American Radio Relay League (ARRL) – the national organization of Amateur Radio operators under which the ARES is formed.

District Emergency Coordinator (DEC) – Walton ARES is under the DEC for Northeast, GA.

Downburst – A strong downdraft with an out-rush of damaging wind on or near the ground.

Designated Relay Station (DRS) – a station assigned to relay information between two operating nets.

Emergency Coordinator (EC) – usually supports a geographic area comprised of a county.

Federal Communications Commission (FCC) – The regulatory branch of the Federal Government for all communications activity.

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) – a branch of the Federal Government charged with responding to significant disaster events

Flash Flood – A rapid rise in water, usually within 12 hours of a period of heavy rain or other event, such as a dam break.

Family Radio Service (FRS) – 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.

Georgia Emergency Management Agency (GEMA) –

Go Kit – A quick reaction kit maintained by the individual amateur radio operator that has basic items needed to respond to an emergency.

Georgia Public Safety Training Center (GPSTC) – State training center located in Forsyth, GA.

High Frequency (HF) – generally considered the frequencies from 3 MHz to 30 MHz amateur radio band.

ICS Incident Command System – an all hazards method of managing incidents.

LAN Local Area Network – used to indicate the packet radio networks.

**Military Affiliate Radio System (MARS)** – is a civilian auxiliary consisting primarily of licensed amateur radio operators who are interested in assisting the military with communications on a local, national, and international basis as an adjunct to normal communications.

**Mobile Communications Vehicle (MCV)**

**Megahertz (MHz)** – One million hertz or one million cycles per second, used to measure frequency.

**Net Control Station (NCS)** – A communications station designated to control traffic and enforce circuit discipline within a given net.

**National Incident Management System (NIMS)** – a federal program establishing a common methodology for managing incidents of all types.

**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)** – part of the United States Department of Commerce, responsible for weather forecasting, including hurricane and severe storm. Operates the satellite systems used for weather observations from space.

**National Volunteer Organization Active in Disasters (NOVOAD)** – an association of volunteer organizations that respond to disaster emergencies.

**National Traffic System (NTS)** – An organized network of amateur radio operators sponsored by the American Radio Relay League for the purpose of relaying messages throughout the US and Canada. Near Vertical Incidence Skywave (NVIS)

**National Weather Service (NWS)** – federal agency responsible for local weather forecasting.

**Official Emergency Station (OES)** – Amateur Station appointed to carry out specific functions and assignments designated by the appropriate EC or DEC.

**Office of Homeland Security (OHS)**

**Operations Plan (OPLAN)**

**Personal Computer (PC)**

**Planning Staff** – The planning staff is composed of all Assistant Emergency Coordinators.

**Response Team (RT)** – A group of Amateur Radio Operators assigned to a particular location or activity as defined in the Operations Plan.

**Response Team Leader (RTL)** – 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.

**Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network (SATERN)**

**Section Emergency Coordinator (SEC)** – The SEC is the assistant to the SM for emergency preparedness. The SEC is appointed by the SM to take care of all matters pertaining to emergency communications and the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) on a section wide basis.

**Section** – A geographic area, often defined by state boundaries, that elects a Section Manager.

**Southeastern Emergency Digital Association Networks (SEDAN)** – an organization of digital repeaters in support of emergency communications, primarily located in the southeastern United States.

**Southeastern Repeater Association (SERA)** – coordinating body for repeaters.

**Served Agency** – A public service agency with which Walton County 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.

**Situation Report (SITREP)**

**SKYWARN** – A program sponsored by the National Weather Service of volunteer severe weather spotters.

**Section Manager (SM)** – the Georgia 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.

**Standard Operating Procedure (SOP)**

**Tucson Amateur Packet Radio Corporation (TAPR)**

**Terminal Node Controller (TNC)** – 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.

Ultra High Frequency (UHF) – generally considered to be the frequencies from 300 MHz to 3000 MHz, This includes the frequencies in the 440 MHz amateur radio band.

Very High Frequency (VHF) – 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.

Walton County Emergency Management Agency (WCEMA)

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 – Areas favorable for the severe weather event in or near the watch area. Watches are issued for tornadoes, severe thunderstorms, and flash floods.

(ARES and Amateur Radio Emergency Service are registered service marks of the American Radio Relay League.)

## **5. Release Information**

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