Idaho Amateur Radio Emergency Service® (ARES)

Guidance for Membership & Training Standards

General Discussion

The Amateur Radio Emergency Service® (ARES) is an organization sponsored by the American Radio Relay League (ARRL), a non-government organization (NGO). In Idaho, the ARES mission is to provide auxiliary communications and technology assistance to our Served Agencies. The Served Agency at the local level is typically the County Office of Emergency Management. We want to qualify and train ARES personnel to an "Idaho ARES Training Standard" so that we can provide an appropriate and uniform service level to all of our Served Agencies. Idaho ARES collaborates with Idaho BHS RACES to establish and maintain a unified training standard. This collaborative effort may be extended to other Amateur Radio emergency communications organizations (such as MARS and REACT) in the future.

Idaho ARES Membership and Training Levels

We support three membership and training levels in Idaho, called ARES Member, ARES Operator, and ARES EOC Operator. Requirements for acceptance to these three training levels are described as follows:

ARES Member

Basic Requirements: Hold Amateur Radio License, have an interest in emergency communications, apply to local ARES organization, interview with local ARES Emergency Coordinator (EC). Upon acceptance to the local ARES group, the ARES Member may be issued a locally created badge or ID card.

Background Check: Submit to Background Check if required by Served Agency.

Ongoing Requirements: Participate in 75% of local ARES meetings and activities (or have pre-approved absence from EC) over a calendar year. Engage in training and education as assigned by the EC.

Beyond the First Year: ARES Members are encouraged (but not required) to step up to the ARES Operator level. If an individual remains at the Member level, he/she will have an annual review with the EC, and if performance is satisfactory the locally created badge or ID card will be renewed for the next year.

ARES Operator

Basic Requirements: Complete ARES Member basic requirements. Indicate an interest in achieving ARES Operator training level.

Background Check: Submit to Background Check as required by Served Agency.

Ongoing Requirements: Participate in 75% of local ARES meetings and activities (or have pre-approved absence from EC) over a calendar year. Engage in training and education as assigned by the EC. Complete FEMA ICS-100 and ICS-700 courses (online or classroom) within 12 months. Demonstrate proficiency in operation of Amateur VHF radios. Assist ARES Net Control Station as scribe, and act as Net Control Station on local ARES net at least once during a calendar year.   Assist the EC with training of members, as required.

Beyond the First Year: ARES Operators are encouraged to continue to the ARES EOC Operator level. If an individual remains at the Operator level, he/she will have an annual review with the EC, and if performance is satisfactory the locally created badge or ID card will be renewed for the next year. Submit to annual Background Check update if required by Served Agency.

ARES EOC Operator

Basic Requirements: Complete ARES Operator basic and ongoing requirements. Indicate an interest in achieving ARES EOC Operator training level.

Background Check: Submit to Background Check as required by Served Agency.

Ongoing Requirements: Complete FEMA ICS-200 and ICS-800 courses (online or classroom) within 12 months. Complete ARRL EC-01 course within 12 months. Demonstrate proficiency in operation of Amateur VHF radios. Participate in EOC training as required by EC. EOC training will include mastering of local EOC equipment (radios, computers, other) as required by the Served Agency. Receive Web EOC training when locally available. Assist the EC with local ARES unit training and administration. Demonstrate proficiency in operation of Amateur HF equipment. Participate in the Idaho ARES/RACES HF net at least twice during a 12 month period. Learn to use digital messaging systems such as Packet radio and Winlink if these messaging systems are available in the local EOC or other locations as required by the EC.

Beyond the First Year: EOC Operators will have an annual review with the EC, and if performance is satisfactory the locally created badge or ID card will be renewed for the next year. EOC Operators may be designated as EOC Communications Leaders by the EC.

Statewide Badging: EOC Operators will be entitled to wear a standardized badge when this program becomes available. The standardized badge program will be administered Idaho BHS, and will require an Idaho BHS background check.

Additional Responsibilities: ARES EOC Operators who have a desire to assume additional leadership responsibilities will need to receive a recommendation by a current

EOC Comm Leader in local unit/section and then complete the following Level III (EOC Comm Leader) requirements:

1. Satisfy all ARES Operator and ARES EOC Operator requirements
   a. Participate in at least two exercise or real world disasters as a shift or team leader
   b. Receive sign off by EC to as an EOC Operator supervisor
   c. Complete FEMA Courses IS-300 and IS-400 (classroom or online)
   d. Complete ARRL Emergency Communications Leader course EC-16 (Note: ARRL Section Manager approval required)
   e. Complete FEMA COM-T or COM-L course and/or certification (may be waived based on availability)

PROBATIONARY STATUS:

ARES Members with less than 1 year of service will be on a probationary status. If they fail to meet the above requirements within the stated timeline, their membership status will be reconsidered and may be subject to being placed in an inactive status. If a member decides to leave ARES, all credentialing materials held by that member (Badges or ID Cards) must be returned to the local EC within 30 days.

Members who have been active prior to 01/01/2012 will be granted full membership but may be required to meet the above requirements on or before 01/01/2013.

NOTES:
1. Changes in name, address, call sign, and contact information (primary phone) will require filling out a new Idaho ARES Application for records continuity.
2. The requirements for Idaho ARES membership may be changed at any time by the Idaho ARRL Section Manager and/or the Idaho ARRL Section Emergency Coordinator, particularly as technology changes occur.

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Print Name   Member   Date

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Signature

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Print Name   ARES Emergency Coordinator   Date

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Signature