

WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA SECTION



SERVICE ♦ INTEGRITY ♦ EXCELLENCE

ARES Advances into the 21st Century

A New Program, A New Mission

ARRL Public Service Enhancement Working Group
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Why ARES is Changing

- The current, paper-based ARES program was last updated **more than 40 years ago!**
- 9-11 changed ***everything!*** (17 years ago...)
- Agencies we serve transitioned to the National Incident Management System 15-20 years ago and expect serving agencies (like us) to understand and operate using the principles of the Incident Command System to fit in
- Served Agencies expect “Voluntary Agencies” to be **organized, trained, qualified and credentialed**
- If we still come across as “the H.A.M. radios” there may no longer be a place for us in future public safety planning

Vision

The vision is for an ARES that is comprised of **organized, trained, qualified, and credentialed** Amateur Radio operators who can provide public service partners with radio communications expertise, capability, and capacity.

Goals

- Align the ARES organizational structure with:
 - National Incident Management System (NIMS)
 - Incident Command System (ICS)
- The Emergency Coordinator (EC) will continue to lead the ARES team locally during an incident
- District EC and Section Emergency Coordinator will continue to serve as resources and support for the EC
- ARES Connect is the new platform designed to support
 - Reporting and Membership
 - Database Portability [One Authoritative Source]
 - Record Keeping and Statistics

Membership Levels

- **Level One** participants would be able to fulfill most ARES duties with the target of attaining Level Two in one year
- **Level Two** would be considered the normal participant level, which would gain the participant access to most incident sites and EOCs
- **Level Three** would convey full access as granted by the Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ), and qualification for ARES leadership

Training Levels

Training Levels correspond with new ARES Member levels:

- **Level One** would be comprised of all entering the program with no training, while progressing through the ARRL emergency communications training and the FEMA Independent Study courses 100, 200, 700, and 800
- **Level Two** would be attained upon successful completion of these courses, and would be considered the "Standard" level for ARES participants
- **Level Three** would be attained upon completion of the advanced FEMA courses IS 300 and 400, which would qualify candidates for the ARES leadership positions EC, DEC, SEC and Assistants

Mandatory Training

- It is envisioned that additional training will be mandated, including:
 - ARRL Emergency Communications courses
 - The now standard FEMA NIMS/ICS courses IS-100, 200, 700, 800
 - IS-300 and 400 for higher levels
- Other specialty courses will be required in certain cases such as:
 - SKYWARN
 - other agency-specific training

ARES ID

- It is proposed that ARRL will provide a basic ARES ID
 - would convey recognition of registration with ARES nationally
 - indicate level of training
 - No conveyance of site access is guaranteed
 - The AHJ would grant an additional ID/pass for site access, which would be "owned" by the AHJ [Authority Having Jurisdiction, e.g.: EMA]

What's Happening Now

- ARES Connect
 - Currently being field-tested and implemented
 - ARRL HQ staff undergoing training in administration
 - Group registrations being made and Group IDs being assigned
 - Beta testing with four large ARRL Sections underway.
- The plans are pending approval by the ARRL Board of Directors at the July Board Meeting
- ARES Strategic Plan for ARRL Field Organization being drafted
- Introductory Announcement being drafted
- Editing/updating ARRL ARES-related publications is underway
- Full article on ARES enhancements to appear in September *QST*

Where WPA Stands

- As of July 1, 2018
 - 15 Counties with ECs (71%) have registered and received ARES Group IDs
 - 12 Counties without ECs (36%) will be registered by DECAs
- When all 33 counties are registered
 - Members will be permitted to register
 - ECs and others will be permitted to file monthly reports using ARES Connect
 - SM, SEC and DECAs will be able to access data for entire Section to obtain statistics and reports

Summary

No need to panic!

- ARES Connect is working well, and soon you will be making your monthly reports online
 - No more confusing PDF forms to fill out and email!
- All data for your ARES group members will be readily available
 - You can see who is at what level
 - Keep track of member progress
 - Get ARRL Credentials for every member

Summary page 2

- Members aren't being forced to do anything
 - If a member doesn't want to study free ICS courses, they don't have to. They can enjoy meaningful participation at Level 1 forever
 - If a member wants to become an ARES leader, they now have a **clearly defined** path to follow
 - Those with initiative to serve at a higher level can immediately begin taking steps to become trained, qualified and credentialed

Summary page 3

- You now have a better organized asset to offer served agencies
 - We gain more credibility by following this path
 - Partner agencies will understand us better
 - We will understand partner agencies better
- Interoperability will be greatly enhanced
 - All ARES groups will be familiar with the standards and practices used in other groups
- “Fantasy Rescue Squads” will find fewer loopholes and stricter guidelines in the new ARES program

Questions & Answers

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