

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 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 Gwinnett ARES® to provide input for the document.

3. Related Publications

None.

4. Definition of Terms

AEC	Assistant Emergency Coordinator – appointed by the EC to assist in managing ARES and its relationships and assigned particular areas of responsibility.
ANCS	Alternate Net Control Station – takes over NCS responsibilities in the event the NCS is unable to continue its responsibilities.
ARES®	Amateur Radio Emergency Service® – 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.)
ARESMAT	ARES Mutual Assistance Team – a team formed within a Section to respond to emergency situations outside the Section or I areas without a local ARES® organization, typically to adjacent Sections or areas when resources in that Section or area cannot meet the emergency needs.
ARRL	American Radio Relay League – the national organization of Amateur Radio operators under which the ARES® is formed.
DEC	District Emergency Coordinator – Gwinnett ARES® is under the DEC for Metro Atlanta.

Downburst	A strong downdraft with an outrush of damaging wind on or near the ground.
DRS	Designated Relay Station – a station assigned to relay information between two operating nets.
EC	Emergency Coordinator - usually supports a geographic area comprised of a county.
FCC	Federal Communications Commission – regulatory branch of the Federal Government for all communications activity.
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency – 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 causative agent (i.e., dam break).
FRS	Family Radio Service – 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.
GARS	Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society – permits use of their repeaters for ARES® use in training and during emergency situations.
GEMA	Georgia Emergency Management Agency.
Go Kit	A quick reaction kit maintained by the individual amateur radio operator that has basic items needed to respond to an emergency.
GPSTC	Georgia Public Safety Training Center located in Forsyth, GA.
GTS	Gwinnett Technical Society – permits use of their repeater for ARES® use in training and during emergency situations.
HF	High Frequency – 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 network used by Gwinnett County ARES®.
MCV	Mobile Communications Vehicle – owned by Gwinnett ARES®.
MHz	Megahertz – one million hertz or one million cycles per second. Used to measure frequency.
NCS	Net Control Station – as defined under the NTS.
NIMS	National Incident Management System – a federal program establishing a common methodology for managing incidents of all types.
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration – part of the United States Department of Commerce and responsible for weather forecasting, including hurricane and severe storm. Operates the satellite systems used for weather observations from space.
NOVOAD	National Volunteer Organization Active in Disasters – an association of volunteer organizations that respond to disaster emergencies.
NTS	National Traffic System – as defined by the ARRL.
NVIS	Near Vertical Incidence Skywave

NWS	National Weather Service – federal agency responsible for local weather forecasting.
OPLAN	Operations Plan.
PC	Personal Computer
Planning Staff	The planning staff is composed of all Assistant Emergency Coordinators.
RACES	Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service – not used in Georgia.
REACT	Radio Emergency Associated Communications Teams: responsible for developing system of nationwide monitoring of Citizens Band channel 9. Have nationwide license for 151. 625 MHz simplex for tactical communications.
Response Team	A group of Amateur Radio Operators assigned to a particular location or activity as defined in the particular Operations Plan.
Response Team Leader	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.
RT	Response Team
RTL	Response Team Leader
SEC	Section Emergency Coordinator – in this case, for the entire State of Georgia.
Section	A geographic area, often defined by state boundaries, that elects a Section Manager.
SEDAN	Southeastern Emergency Digital Association Networks – an organization of digital repeaters in support of emergency communications, primarily located in the southeastern United States.
SERA	Southeastern Repeater Association – coordinating body for repeaters.
Served Agency	A public service agency with which Gwinnett 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.
SIT REP(S)	Situation Report(s).
SKYWARN	A program sponsored by the National Weather Service of volunteer severe weather spotters. In Gwinnett County there are both ARES® and non-ARES® spotter groups.
SM	Section Manager – 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.
SOG	Standard Operating Guideline.
TAPR	Tucson Amateur Packet Radio Corporation.
TNC	Terminal Node Controller – 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.

UHF	Ultra High Frequency – generally considered to be the frequencies from 300 MHz to 3000 MHz. This includes the frequencies in the 440 MHz amateur radio band.
VHF	Very High Frequency – 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.
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 are favorable for the severe weather event in or near the watch area. Watches are issued for tornadoes, severe thunderstorms, and flash floods.

5. Release Information

Stan Edwards. WA4DYD, Emergency Coordinator, is the author of this document.

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