

**KNW-156**  
**ARES AS A GROUP**

Modified from a Waller County ARES training article.

The Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) is a group of licensed amateurs who have qualifications and equipment for communications duty in the public service when disaster strikes. Every licensed amateur is eligible for membership in the ARES. The only requirement, other than possession of an Amateur Radio license, is a sincere desire to serve. Only licensed amateurs are eligible for membership. The possession of emergency-powered equipment is desirable, but is not a requirement for membership.

There are four levels of ARES organization--national, section, district and local. The ARRL Field and Educational Services Manager is responsible for advising all ARES officials regarding their problems, maintaining contact with federal government and other national officials concerned with amateur emergency communications potential, and in general with carrying out the League's policies regarding emergency communications.

At the section level, the Section Emergency Coordinator is appointed by the Section Manager (who is elected by the ARRL members in his or her section) and works under his/her supervision. Some of the ARRL sections with capable SECs are well-organized. A few have scarcely any organization at all.

Our Section Manager is:\_\_\_\_\_.  
Our Section Emergency Coordinator is:\_\_\_\_\_.

SECs have the option of grouping their EC jurisdictions into logical units or "districts" and appointing a District EC to coordinate the activities of the local ECs in the district. In some cases, the districts may conform to the boundaries of emergency service districts, while in others they are simply based on repeater coverage or geographical boundaries. The South Texas Section, District 14 is the only district containing only one county.

Our District Emergency Coordinator is:\_\_\_\_\_.

It is at the local level where most of the real emergency organizing gets accomplished. The local EC is therefore the key contact in the ARES. The EC is appointed by the SEC, usually on the recommendation of the DEC. The EC may have jurisdiction over a small community or a large city, an entire county or even a group of counties. Whatever jurisdiction is assigned, the EC is in charge of all ARES activities in his area, not just one interest group, one agency, one club or one band. The ARES South Texas Section, District 14 is subdivided into 4 Units: North West, South West, North East and South East. Each unit has an EC.

The Emergency Coordinator for the South Texas Section, District 14, \_\_\_\_\_ Unit is: \_\_\_\_\_.

During a disaster, as an ARES group, amateur radio operators set up and operate communication networks locally for governmental and emergency officials, or perhaps for private groups affected by the disaster. Hams are most likely to be the ones who will be active after disasters

that damage regular lines of communication. As a group we have these weekly nets as a way to “practice” our communications, and have occasional simulated emergency drills.

The EC has to file a report with the District Emergency Coordinator monthly that summarizes our membership, gain/loss of members, number of nets, time spent. This is one reason we record the time of the nets, because that counts toward our time for the monthly report. The DEC has to report to the SEC, the SEC reports to the SM, and so on.

\_\_\_\_\_ prepares the \_\_\_\_\_ Unit report each month. Please send you activity/service hours to \_\_\_\_\_ at the end of each month. The hours you spend on: the weekly NET’s, public service events you participate in, etc. should be given to Andrew.

Many national organizations have formal agreements with the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES). ARES has MOU (memos of understanding) with FEMA, Red Cross, Salvation Army, and other groups. These are just starting points, and the local ARES groups should have an MOU with the agencies they serve, specific to the area’s needs. These agencies should then be included in the Emergency Plan.