

Definitions

AEC – Assistant Emergency Coordinator

APRS – Automatic Packet Reporting System – A digital system that transmits and displays data on computer screens. Highly effective as a parallel to voice circuit.

ARES – Amateur Radio Emergency Service headed by the Section Emergency Coordinator (SEC); is part of the ARRL field organization.

ARRL – American Radio Relay League – National Amateur Radio organization dedicated to implementing Part 97 of the FCC regulations.

BLUE Alert or **Condition Blue** – Alert status allowing ARES officials at their discretion to shut down operations when they complete their emergency-related duties.

CEM – County Emergency Manager or County Emergency Management.

CERT – Community Emergency Response Team. A group of civilian volunteers that have received formal training in emergency services and act as first responders to a local emergency.

Communications emergency – As defined the FCC occurs when normal communications systems are disrupted in a specific area.

County – Any geographical jurisdiction assigned an EC. For ARES purposes a County can be an actual Florida County, a portion of a County, or a combination of counties.

County Warning Point – A county public safety site, such as a Sheriffs' dispatch office, that functions 24 hours a day. It is a principal contact point for the State Warning Point.

DEC – District Emergency Coordinator - an appointee in charge of ARES activities in a cluster of counties comprising a District.

DEM also **FDEM** – The Florida Division of Emergency Management

Disaster – An event causing death or serious injury to humans or a major loss of property.

Distress traffic – Any traffic relating to an acute, immediate threat to human safety or property; i.e. SOS, MAYDAY, or EMERGENCY traffic.

District – Two or more contiguous counties assigned to a DEC.

EC or Emergency Coordinator – An ARES appointee who supervises emergency planning and operations in a specified geographical area. Reports to the DEC.

Email – Electronic messages exchanged over the Internet or local computer network.

Emergency – Any situation in which human life or property is threatened. The emergency ceases when relief agencies have no further need for our services (see “Disaster”).

Emergency Net – A group of Amateurs using the same frequency and associated side frequencies to support emergency relief measures.

EOC or Emergency Operations Center – An emergency headquarters.

ESF or Emergency Support Function – Each of the 17 ESFs is a group of people in an EOC dealing with specific kinds of problems.

FDEM – Florida Division of Emergency Management (See DEM).

FEMA – Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Formal traffic – Written traffic in ARRL message form. It is used when Amateur Radio operators relay information between third parties.

GATEway Stations – Fixed stations providing liaison between two nets.

HAZMAT – Hazardous Materials.

Informal communications – Radio exchanges between two people not requiring verbatim relay to any third party. Classified as non-traffic; not handled on emergency nets.

Jump Team – A group of experienced Amateur volunteers selected and trained to mobilize on a very short notice to meet an emergency.

Key City – A cluster of GATEway stations within a specific geographic area providing liaison between activated emergency nets or a Served Agency HQ.

LGL – Local Government Liaison is an appointment by the State Government Liaison (SGL) for any specific task.

NF or Northern Florida – The Northern Florida Section of ARRL.

NM – Net Manager.

NOAA or **National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration** – Home agency for the National Weather Service.

No alert – Same as Condition Green. Normal operations.

NTS – National Traffic System.

NWS – National Weather Service.

Orange Alert or **Condition Orange** – ARES members are active at assigned duty posts – not on standby.

QNC – QN signal for CW or digital net use meaning “All net Member stations please copy”. It indicates that the message to follow is of general interest.

RACES – Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service – RACES organizations, where they exist in Florida, operate at the County level under direct control of the County Emergency Management Director.

Red Alert or **Condition Red** – Maximum level of ARES activation in the Northern Florida ARES Plan.

Section – ARRL administrative unit headed by elected Section Manager (SM). Florida has three Sections; Northern, Southern, and West Central.

SEC or **Section Emergency Coordinator** – Official responsibility for all ARES activities within a Section.

Secondary net – A communications channel associated with the primary emergency net used for traffic handling and other time-consuming net business.

SEOC – State Emergency Operations Center in Tallahassee.

SERT – State Emergency Response Team. A collection of national, state and local agencies and organizations, including volunteer organizations such as ARES, Florida National Guard and the American Red Cross, that are identified as first responders in an emergency. SERT is managed by the State of Florida Division of Emergency Management (DEM) and coordinates all CERT-team emergency response activities that affect the state of Florida from preparation for an emergency to post-incident mitigation operations.

SET – Simulated Emergency Test.

SGL – State Government Liaison is an appointment made by the Section Manager. The role is that of interface between amateur radio and all facets of state government.

Side Frequency – Secondary Net.

SITREP – Situation Report – message reporting status of emergency-related activities.

SM – Section Manager.

STM – Section Traffic Manager.

SWP – State Warning Point – Communications center at FDEM; operates 24 hours a day, every day.

SWPAS – State Warning Point Amateur Station – An amateur station located at the State Warning Point in the State Emergency Operations Center in Tallahassee. It is activated by the SEOC Operations Officer when needed, is staffed by amateurs recruited by the LGL who has that role, and serves the roles given to it by the SEOC Operations Officer. Usually that will include receiving input from the Tallahassee GATEway, including SITREPS from the SECs, and transmitting traffic for County Emergency Managers to individual amateurs unless they are serving County Emergency Managers or SECs.

Tactical traffic – Spoken instructions or consultation on the air. No third party communication occurs.

Traffic – Any exchange of information between two or more Amateur Radio Stations.

Traffic Log – A list of incoming and outgoing traffic at an Amateur station.

White Alert or **Condition White** – Notice to ARES members to prepare for deployment on very short notice.