

NORTHERN FLORIDA SECTION POLICIES

Certain policies prevail when Northern Florida ARES groups conduct emergency operations. When these policies differ from ARRL policy, the NF ARES procedures take precedence.

1. The SEC, DEC and ECs do not assume specific operating duties when their organizations are on Orange or Red Alert. They must remain free to cope with their official duties. When a County or District is not activated, however, this restriction does not apply.
2. ARES members on duty are directed only by ARES officials. Served-agency officials may not change the ARES volunteer's instructions.
3. Amateurs who hold professional emergency-response obligations (e.g. police officer or County emergency management) will not be appointed EC or DEC.
4. ARES operators, while on duty, perform only their assigned ARES duties. If the operator wants to assume other duties he asks the EC for relief from ARES duties.
5. The same person will not hold DEC and EC appointments at the same time.
6. Complete service information will be written on the message form.
7. Written messages in ARRL format are used whenever third parties are involved.
8. Every emergency-related message (except MAYDAY or Welfare) should be given Priority precedence, no matter how routine they may seem.
9. A reply takes the same precedence as the original.
10. Priority messages addressed to, or originating at the State EOC take precedence over other Priority traffic.
11. Emergency-related messages should usually be transferred from ARES nets to commercial circuits at the first opportunity when that will speed delivery.
12. In-coming Welfare inquiry traffic will not be handled on any ARES Emergency Net operating in Condition Orange or Red.

13. Out-going Welfare “assurance” messages get a W (Welfare) precedence and will not be handled on any net operating on Orange Alert unless approved by the Net Manager. They will not be handled at all during Red Alerts.
14. Regular operations by other NF nets cease on 3950 KHz when the Emergency Net is activated. NTS liaisons are not maintained during emergency operations.
15. At their option, ARES officials may use the Emergency Net frequency for consultation and coordination.
16. Except for MAYDAY situations, business on the Emergency Net frequency must not be allowed to cause delays in listing emergency-related traffic or listening for weak stations.
17. Message traffic should be dispatched on the Emergency Net but actually transmitted on side frequencies. However, during long periods of inactivity traffic may be handled on the net frequency at the discretion of the Net Manager or Net Control.
18. Situation permitting, emergency communications use VHF or UHF nets in preference to HF.
19. When any operations tax local ARES resources, the EC will ask the DEC for support. The DEC may assign ARES units from other counties within the District and/or request additional help through the SEC. The SEC may recruit additional personnel from any available source.
20. ARES officials may do whatever is legal and reasonably necessary for the orderly conduct of the operation.
21. ECs appointed to counties with Key Cities must hold at least a General Class Amateur license.
22. UTC in 24-hour format is the preferred time system for all dated ARES messages, documents and schedules. Dates must agree with the time system used.