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*Amateur Radio Emergency Service*

**ARES**  
**A Communications**  
**Safety Net**

Sacramento Valley Section  
www.sacvalleyares.org

## What is ARES?

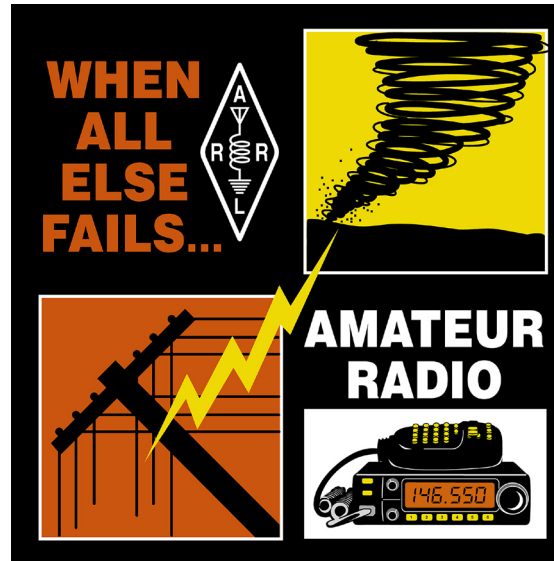
The **Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES)** consists of more than 40,000 licensed amateurs who have voluntarily registered their qualifications and equipment for communications duty in the public service when disaster strikes. ARES provides an organized pool of operators to provide reliable primary and secondary communications links for governmental agencies and/or non-profit organizations when needed.

## How ARES differs from Public Safety Radios

Amateur Radio and ARES works when other communications systems fail during natural disasters because Amateur Radio is not infrastructure-dependent, and is decentralized. ARES members are trained in emergency communications.

## ARES communications capabilities

ARES has the capabilities to quickly create a communications network that can provide communications at a local level, county or state wide, even world wide if necessary. Every ARES member is able to operate independently and effectively from most locations.



## ARES makes a difference during hurricanes and other emergencies

Immediately at the onset of Hurricane Katrina, an all-volunteer “army” of approximately 1,000 FCC-licensed Amateur Radio operators provided continuous high-frequency (HF), VHF and UHF communications for State, local and Federal emergency workers in and around the affected area in Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama. These communications were provided for served agencies such as the American National Red Cross and the Salvation Army, and to facilitate interoperability between and among these agencies: First Responders, FEMA, VOAD (National Volunteers Active in Disasters) and other agencies.

## How ARES can assist you in Emergencies

ARES can provide the Red Cross and Emergency Management Organizations a primary or secondary communications link. ARES can provide communication links between shelters and chapter houses, support for damage assessment, supply handling, logistics, and health and welfare messages.

Does your agency need an organized back-up communications link which can be called into action if your usual communications links become overloaded or disrupted? Are you in need of reliable interagency communications during emergencies? If so, volunteer amateur radio operators can fill the gap.

ARES gives the community access to a pool of qualified communications personnel who can establish communications channels and nets where and when they are needed, providing additional communications capacity between emergency operations centers (EOC) and community shelters, hospitals, evacuation points, and other locations.

ARES *relies* on the services of amateur radio operators who volunteer their time, equipment, and expertise for the benefit of the community and the public good.