Yolo County ARES Activation & Call Out Procedures

In case of an Activation Alert do the following:

1. Monitor the KE6YUV, R1BRK. repeater- 146.970

2. If the repeater is down, monitor the BARK output Freq. S1BRK (146.970) simplex

3. Monitor your email if possible

4. Listen for ARES activation

5. Check and ready your Go-Kit

6. Check-in with ARES Net control

7. Standby for activation and assignment

8. Upon assignment, notify person in charge at new location and Net Control of Location

9. Obtain a tactical call sign from Net Control

10. Keep a log of all of your activities.

11. Use tactical call sign for your location, while observing FCC's ten-minute ID rule.

12. Use log form to record messages handled.

13. Use a formal message form when a precise record is required.

14. Monitor your assigned frequency AT ALL TIMES.

15. When you leave, notify person in charge and Net Control

1. **Activating of The Emergency Response Plan**

   1.1 In an emergency in Yolo County, Yolo County ARES can be notified by a private or public service agency, by an ARES member or other amateur radio operator. The Emergency Coordinator (EC) or assistant EC (AEC) should be notified by radio or telephone as soon as possible.

   1.2 Once an emergency or potential emergency condition has been identified, the EC, AEC, or designated net control station (NCS), will

send out an e-mail page and phone call to Yolo County ARES members. Through out this call up period the NCS will announce the appropriate emergency level over the Yolo County ARES repeater system. All Yolo County ARES members will stand by and monitor the frequency. If indicated, a roll call will be conducted.

2. Mobilization Procedure

2.1 Upon awareness or notification of an emergency requiring emergency communication, members of the Yolo County ARES will monitor the 146.970 - (PL 123.0) repeater, and be ready to check in when called by the Net Control Station.

146.550 MHz is the designated alternate simplex, county-wide ARES frequency. The EC, AEC, or designated net control station (NCS) will designate one Yolo County ARES member to monitor 146.550 MHz as liaison to direct Yolo County ARES members to the primary repeater or other alternate frequency. Appendix A, Band Plan for Yolo County ARES shows the back-up frequencies on the 2 meter band.

The High Frequency Bands of 75M phone frequency of 3.987 MHz +/- 1 KHz will also be used for communicating outside the range of the repeaters.

The alternate 40M emergency frequency of 7.230 MHz +/- KHz daytime, or 3987 KHz+/- 1 KHz, night time, may also be used. ARES units throughout the Sacramento Valley Section use these HF frequencies. If they are being used the ARES operator is to move up about 10 KHz or more to find an open frequency.

2.2 The EC or AEC "in charge" may assume net control, or he or she may assign a Net Control Station operator. The NCS usually shall not be located in the area affected by the emergency. The Yolo County ARES NCS station may located at the Yolo American Red Cross Office, a member's home station, or a mobile communications van.

2.3 The Yolo County ARES may activate an Emergency Control Center of Yolo County ARES operators, when appropriate, for wide-scale emergencies. The designated site of the Emergency Control Center of Yolo County ARES operators is the Yolo County American Red Cross Chapter House, located on 120 Court Street, Woodland. Wide-scale emergencies may require assistance from operators from outside Yolo County, on a mutual assistance basis to ensure adequate staffing. For ARES, all requests for outside assistance must go through the Emergency Coordinator (EC) and/or the Section Emergency Coordinator (SEC).

2.4 When an emergency exists outside Yolo County, the EC may ask for volunteer ARES operators to stand by and be available to respond if and when requested by another EC or official agency. However, adequate emergency coverage for Yolo County must be maintained.

Alerts

ARES begins to react ONLY when we've been alerted.

If you feel an earthquake the FIRST thing you should do is make sure your own location is secure. Once you're sure of your own situation turn your radio on and LISTEN to the resource net 146.970 (BARK). Call net control ONLY if you have damage or injuries to report. During the initial minutes after a quake the resource net will be trying to determine what areas are damaged, and deal with anyone that needs immediate help. Stay off the frequency and listen for your EC or AEC to come up on the resource frequency and give instructions. Your EC or AEC will give you the necessary information to allow you to respond. If you have the ability to listen to more than one frequency you might also monitor also 147.255 (N6QDY) or 145.450 (N6JRB).

The other major way that you will be alerted to an emergency is by receiving a phone call or Text message from another amateur. Soon, we will be setting up a phone tree, so it is important that the EC and AEC and each member have your updated contact numbers.

ARES in Yolo County has four states of readiness,

Normal; day to day.

Level 1; NOTIFICATION; ARES has been notified of an emergency management activity which may require ARES assistance.

Level 2; STANDBY; ARES has been advised of an emergency management activity which will likely require ARES assistance.

Level 3; DEPLOYMENT; ARES has been advised of an emergency management activity which requires immediate ARES assistance.

How To Respond

Now that you've received an alert the first thing you have to do is ensure your own situation before you can render aid to someone else. Check that the building you're in isn't falling around you, etc. Next take care of your own home and family. This includes making sure that your family is ready to deal with the problems they are likely to encounter. The best way to do this is by preparation before the emergency. Talk about what you're likely to be involved with and how the family is going to deal with it.

Another aspect to consider is having food and equipment ready to go so that you're self-sufficient. Try to have sufficient supplies to last for 72 hours without outside help.

How Are You Dispatched?

There are two methods of dispatch employed by ARES. These are self-dispatch, and dispatch via assignment from the Resource net. How you are dispatched depends on the agency you are responding with.

Self-dispatching means going to a pre-assigned location after you become aware of the Emergency (such as you are working with ACS, and you are assigned to ERD2). Your responsibility might involve heading for the local hospital, or getting to the EOC as quickly as possible. Self-dispatching has the advantage of putting trained individuals into critical spots quickly. The tradeoff for this form of dispatch is depending on specific individuals being available when the emergency is declared. *Self-dispatching DOES NOT mean heading to your position on a whim.* You would respond under specific conditions — i.e., a severe earthquake occurred, or you were activated by phone tree. The Resource Net is the other mechanism employed by ARES for organizing manpower/ hardware availability. The resource net's job is to recruit operators to fill job slots that have been requested for staffing by ARES and most likely Red Cross, or the EOC.

If you are available (and trained) to fill a job that the resource net is trying to fill then simply call the Resource NCS and give NCS the information asked for. Nominally the NCS will ask for your name, call sign, and a phone number where you can be reached. A VERY important step in this process is asking NCS what special equipment/training you might need for the job you're going to fill. *Please DO NOT volunteer for a job for which you don't have the training/equipment.* There will normally be plenty of positions that need filling, don't put yourself at risk by stepping into a situation you're not prepared for.

Resource NCS will give you a time that you need to be on station. You should also find out who you should report to when you arrive. If there are any other special instructions, or if you have questions about how to get to the assignment, this is the time to ask Resource.

Responding to Your Assignment

Before you travel to your assignment you should check in with Resource NCS and advise him/her that you are en route to your assignment. Timely notification allows the Resource NCS to verify that all assignments are going to be filled as expected. Plan on arriving at your assignment at least one half hour early. You want to relieve the previous shift on time because:

1. You expect the next shift to relieve you on time, thus, you should provide the same courtesy to the person you're relieving.

2. You need to receive a thorough briefing from the previous shift about the duties of the position you are taking over.

You want to arrive at the assignment safe and sound, so use care in driving to the assignment. Do NOT drive like an emergency vehicle with the lights and siren running.

If you have some form of identification for your car like the magnetic signs which say "Amateur Radio Communications", you should install them before you leave. This may help you get past road blocks, etc. a little more easily as you proceed to your assignment. Even with identification on your car you still might be stopped by law enforcement officials. Try to explain to the officer where you are going and why. If this doesn't work then call the Resource NCS and inform them of the situation. It may be necessary for them to contact the appropriate agency to get you past the road block. Just remain patient. The message will eventually get through and so will you. Once you arrive at the assignment you should collect your gear and make contact with the person named by Resource NCS. This might be the operator you're relieving, the amateur radio Site Supervisor, or a liaison officer for the agency you're helping. This contact person should be able to either brief you on the job you are going to do, or direct you to the person who can. Once you get that briefing, you're ready to go!