

Polk County ARES 2011 Hurricane Operational Plan

During hurricane season, all ARES members should be vigilant for a hurricane landfall that could adversely affect Polk County. Members should daily check weather forecasts, in the media. If there is a threat of a hurricane, affecting Polk County, members should prepare themselves, their homes and families in accordance with recommendations made by Emergency Management. Members should ascertain the readiness of themselves and their equipment for potential deployment.

Definitions: In this document, the term EC is the abbreviation for the Polk County ARES Emergency Coordinator and his or her designee(s). The term operator means an ARES member deployed, during an Emergency.

The primary means of notification will be e-mail. When ARES activation appears to be eminent, e-mail will be sent to all members. This e-mail will come from the EC. Each member should respond to this e-mail indicating availability of themselves and their equipment. Members that have not responded within approximately 12 hours will be contacted, by telephone.

Based on information from the served agencies, the EC will assess the need for communications. Resources will be matched with needs. People and equipment will be deployed to locations specified by the EC. Most likely deployment locations would be shelters.

ARES members will be told when and where to deploy. Bring everything you think you might need. Upon deployment to a location, the first contact will be with the person in charge of the location. At a shelter, this would be the shelter manager. The Amateur Radio equipment brought by the ARES member will be setup, by the operator, in conformance with the instructions of the person in responsible charge.

For technical and Amateur Radio operational matters, the operator reports to the EC. For all other matters, the operator reports to the person in responsible charge, at the location. Other than testing our equipment, the operator will not use Amateur Radio to communicate, unless other means of communications are inoperative. The operator should do what ever is asked of him/her. However the reason you are there is to communicate. The operator is there to provide a mechanism for important communications.

Shortly after deployment, the Polk County ARES Net will be activated on the WC4PEM repeater 146.985 (-600) PL 127.3 Hz. Operators should check into the net. This will be a directed net. All communications will be thru the net control station. It is critical that net discipline be maintained and that all transmissions are necessary, to accomplish our mission.

It is expected that all communications from outlying locations will be to the county Emergency Operations Center (EOC), near Bartow. Our primary frequency for communications will be WC4PEM, on 146.985. Should the repeater become inoperative, then, the net will move to, 146.985 simplex, also with a 127.3 Hz PL tone? Other frequencies may be used at the discretion of the EC. Other nets may be established.

All messages on behalf of third parties will be handled using FEMA form ICS 213 or in standard ARRL message format. In general, any message that will not be relayed will use ICS 213. Any message that will require an intermediate station for delivery will use the ARRL message form.

If Polk County officials cannot communicate with the outside world, using their normal means of communications, HF SSB Amateur Radio will be used. HF antennas will be temporarily set up, at the EOC, after the wind has subsided. Frequencies used will be designated by, the West Central Florida Section Emergency Coordinator (SEC) or the Florida State EOC, in Tallahassee. It is anticipated that 75, 40 and possibly 60 meters may be used.

Polk County ARES will remain in operation as long as we are needed. Operators will be told when to secure their stations, at deployment locations.