

# North Bay and area Amateur Radio Emergency Service

## Level of Service for Emergency Incidents 2017

The North Bay and area Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) is committed to utilizing our experience and expertise to support communities and public agencies within the local area during declared emergencies.

This document outlines the level of service that we are prepared to offer, as amended from time to time by the ARES Emergency Coordinator.

### 1.0 Definitions:

- “ARES” means the Radio Amateurs of Canada Amateur Radio Emergency Service, and specifically in this document the members in the North Bay area.
- “EC” means the ARES Emergency Coordinator or their designate
- “Crown” means Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Ontario
- “O.P.P.” means the Ontario Provincial Police
- “MNRF” means the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry
- “OFMEM” means Office of the Fire Marshal and Emergency Management
- “Emergency” means a declared emergency as defined in the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act
- “WSIB” means the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board

### 2.0 Volunteer basis

All services offered or provided are done so by our members and their equipment on a volunteer basis. This means that we may not have sufficient personnel or resources to honour any services offered or commitments made.

### 3.0 Best-effort

Any service provided is done so on a best-effort basis. Personnel shortages, equipment failures or any number of other foreseen or unforeseen factors may negatively impact our ability to provide service.

### 4.0 Limits of technology

Any communications service offered or provided is subject to the inherent limits of the technology used. Factors affecting this include but are not limited to: terrain, repeater coverage, atmospheric conditions and serviceability of the equipment in use.

## 5.0 Local area

North Bay ARES services are limited to the local area. This is the area within an approximately 60 km radius from North Bay, or roughly the area bounded by Mattawa, West Nipissing, Marten River and South River.

## 6.0 Declared Emergency

The purpose of this section is to ensure that ARES members are protected by WSIB coverage for their work during an emergency. Therefore, outside of planning activities and scheduled exercises, ARES services are only available:

- 1) to a Municipality or Local Services Board upon request, and after the declaration of an emergency pursuant to section 4 of the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act
- 2) to the Crown upon request, and after declaration of an emergency pursuant to section 7 of the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act
- 3) to the O.P.P. during a search and rescue operation, at the request of and under the direction of a member of the O.P.P.
- 4) to the MNRF in accordance with the section 7 of the Forest Fires Prevention Act

For (1) and (2) above, services cease to be available upon termination of the emergency.

## 7.0 Prior agreement required

Municipalities and Local Services Boards are required to have an agreement and prior working relationship in place with ARES. This means, but is not limited to:

- ARES being included in and a party to the Municipal Emergency Plan
- the ARES EC being a participant in MECG meetings and exercises

## Services offered

### Planning and logistical consultation

The ARES core membership is stable, mature, experienced and is drawn from a broad spectrum of professionals and radio enthusiasts. ARES members have decades of experience in all manner of voice and data communications, and can assist municipalities and local services boards with the 'communications' section of their emergency plan(s) or continuity of operations plan(s).

### Primarily communications

As ARES is an organization of amateur radio operators, the primary service offered during a declared emergency is that of communications between stations, or field locations and a central point. Typically this consists of relaying messages by voice over two-way radio, and include periodic status reports or progress updates from field locations.

Concurrent with providing communications during an emergency, secondary services offered include:

### Checkpoint operation

This means a radio operator stationed along a road, at an intersection or other location as required. Duties would include:

- being an information point (collection and dissemination) between the public and the EOC
- notification to the EOC of persons or vehicles entering or exiting the emergency area

The above is wholly dependent upon the willingness of the public to provide or receive information. ARES members have no authority to control vehicle traffic or enforce laws or emergency orders.

# References

Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act (Ontario)

<https://www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/90e09>

Forest Fires Prevention Act (Ontario)

<https://www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/90f24>

Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (Ontario)

Emergency Workers policy 12-04-03

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