



**For better or worse**, Emergency Planning has become an important part of our society. Each of us is being asked to develop the abilities to help ourselves and others in a disaster.

Would you bet your life that the phones and Internet will still be working? Would you bet the lives of others?

Even if they still function, phones and email based systems can be overwhelmed in a crisis, while critical calls are often blocked.

Each year hundreds of thousands of Americans volunteer their time and energies for the improvement and safety of their communities. Mechanics turn into firemen when the alarm sounds. Hairdressers become EMT's . Engineers turn into auxiliary policemen. America has a long and proud history of these "Minutemen" who answer the call to service in times of emergency....

## And a lot of them are “Hams!”

The Amateur Radio Emergency Service is a national, voluntary organization of FCC licensed Hams -special radio operators who provide communications in an emergency and are organized through the American Radio Relay League. This group has provided emergency communications services for everything from shipwrecks, to the disaster of 9-11, Hurricane Katrina and Rita, firestorms, ice storms, search & rescue operations. It is a specialized field requiring training and Amateur Radio licensing.

### **Your family probably has already benefited from them!**

ARES' **Skywarn** program provides critical ground observations to the National Weather Service in storms.

The **National Traffic Service** has provided long distance emergency communication and free radiograms for families for decades.

The **Red Cross** uses ARES to provide emergency communications in a disaster. So do the **Salvation Army**, **OEM**, **FEMA**, and hundreds of county and municipal governments.

Because each radio station operator is independent but still can talk to each other, it works....

- **Even when the phones are down**
- **When there is no fax machine**
- **The internet is gone**
- **The “trunk line” is jammed**
- **And the cell phone is dead**

Want to know more about **ARES** ?

Go to:

<http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/pscm/sec1-ch1.html>

-or contact-

**ARRL - ARES**

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