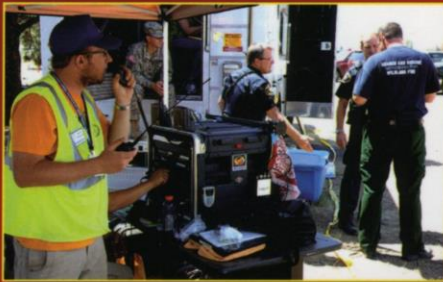


On page 8 of the *ARRL Public Service Handbook*, the National Traffic System is clearly described as the **ARRL** National Traffic System. See cover and referenced page below. See the end of the first paragraph under the subtitle “Field Services.”

The **Amateur Radio** Public Service Handbook



*A Guide to Radio Communications
for **Community Events, Emergencies,**
and Disasters*



First Edition

The Amateur Radio Public Service Handbook

Directors represent the members on the ARRL's Board of Directors. The Board of Directors determines the policies that are implemented by ARRL staff and elect the officers.

ARRL HQ AND EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS

At ARRL Headquarters in Newington, Connecticut, Amateur Radio emergency communications is supported through several departments and programs.

Emergency Preparedness Program

The ARRL's Emergency Preparedness Program (EPP) was established in 2007 in the Membership and Volunteer Programs department at HQ. It is managed by the Emergency Preparedness Manager. There are several key duties of the ARRL EPP, some of which are:

- Represent the ARRL with national served agencies
- Provide support and guidance to the field organization
- Represent ARRL at approved conventions and hamfests
- Maintain and report situational awareness during large-scale disasters and emergencies
- MoU compliance
- Monitor ARES and nationwide emergency communications status
- Administer the ARRL HQ Emergency Response Team and Ham Aid Program

While not a part of the Field Organization, the EPP is closely linked with the activities of ARES and other Amateur Radio groups and organizations that assist during emergencies.

Field Services

The Field Organization Team (within the ARRL Membership and Volunteer Programs Department at Headquarters) provides administrative support and guidance to all the members of the Field Organization, and that includes Section Managers, other Section Leaders, station appointees, and leaders and participants in the ARRL National Traffic System.

In an emergency, the Field Organization Team may assist the Emergency Preparedness Team at Headquarters in establishing and maintaining contact with ARRL Section Leaders and NTS Leaders who are pertinent to the emergency situation and response. Team members may also assist the overall Headquarters response by providing backup monitoring duty and / or handling other tasks as needed.

Additional ARRL HQ Resources

Other departments at ARRL Headquarters also play a role in Amateur Radio emergency communications. The Education Services Department coordinates the ARRL training courses Introduction to Emergency Communications (EC-001) and Public Service and Emergency Communications Management for Radio Amateurs (EC-016). The ARRL's

Media and Public Relations Manager helps promote to the media and public the valuable contributions made to their communities by Amateur Radio operators. And the Membership and Volunteer Programs department supports Amateur Radio clubs.

AMATEUR RADIO EMERGENCY AND PUBLIC SERVICE COMMUNICATIONS

Whether you call it EmComm, public service communications, or auxiliary communications one thing is true: Amateur Radio operators have been some of the first to step forward when their communities and their country are in need. For over 100 years, the Amateur Radio Service has answered the call when a communications emergency occurs. We have done so under many different banners and names; ARES, RACES, MARS, ARECC, and SKYWARN, to name a few.

You will learn more about several of these organizations in this book. The Amateur Radio Emergency Service® (ARES®) in particular, affiliated with the ARRL, consists of licensed amateurs who have voluntarily registered their qualifications and equipment for communications duty in the public service when disaster strikes. Only licensed amateurs are eligible for membership, though membership in the ARRL is not necessary for membership. There are four levels of ARES organization: national, section, district, and local, with national emergency coordination under the supervision of the ARRL Membership and Volunteer Programs Manager at ARRL Headquarters.

So why is the Amateur Radio Service so valuable during a communications emergency? The answer isn't as straightforward as it may seem. It is found in who we are and what we do as a service.

Most Amateur Radio operators did not get their license because it was required of them; they got it because something about Amateur Radio appealed to them. In other words, they volunteered. They volunteered to learn more about communications, radio, technology, and the world in which they live. The FCC describes the Amateur Radio Service as a "voluntary noncommercial communication service." Think of all the ways in which amateurs volunteer; Elmering, assisting another amateur with station building, pitching in at Field Day, assisting a new ham who's building his or her first kit, volunteering at a served agency. During the first and second World Wars, amateurs volunteered en masse to serve their country as radio operators in the armed forces. Volunteerism is the key to Amateur Radio.

Since the events of September 11, 2001, "emergency communications" have become buzzwords in Amateur Radio. Many people have gotten their Amateur Radio licenses with emergency and disaster preparedness in mind. However, 99% of the time, an emergency doesn't exist. During that time, we should not and cannot sit around waiting for an emergency to occur, at which point we spring into action. We must keep our communication skills sharp by being active Amateur Radio operators; something achieved first and foremost by getting on the air. Amateurs are active every day in many ways;