

## How is Kentucky ARES Activated?

By Ron Dodson, KA4MAP

I am often asked at meetings and programs, "How is ARES activated in an emergency?" Regionally or Locally, ARES can activate from a number of means.

A KY EM Area Manager may activate his Area ARES during events such as floods, etc. at his/her discretion by contacting the DEC or EC's of the counties involved.

A National Weather Service (NWS) Office may request ARES activate to perform Skywarn operations in a changing weather situation.

A county EM Director or County Judge Executive or Mayor may ask his local amateurs to activate by calling either the EC for the county/community or an AEC.

Local American Red Cross or other VOAD groups may request that you activate in support of their operations.

Local ARES may self activate in a STAND BY type mode on their own initiative.

KERR Page 22, Section 4.4 states "Should there be a request from the Division of Emergency Management or the State Telecommunications Officer to activate the ARES on a State-Wide basis, the following plan will be used. From 2100Z to 1400Z on 3888kHz or from 1400Z to 2100Z on 7228kHz (+ or- ) a call will be put out on 3960kHz to all ARES and Kentucky Section members to stand by on frequency for [EMERGENCY] or [PRIORITY] information from the [State EOC] or [REQUESTING AGENCY]. The net control station (NCS) will proceed to call the Kentucky Emergency Net into formal session with an explanation for the activation. (Should a slight shift in frequency need to be performed, NCSes are asked to be mindful of the fact that the General class subband ENDS at 7.225 MHz.! Try not to exclude our General class operators by going downward in frequency.)

Also, lest anyone think that KY EM is the only agency that can use KEN, I remind everyone that KY EM is our primary served agency. However, should the net not be currently activated and a request from NWS, KY American Red Cross officials or and other recognized VOAD state level authority be received, KEN can activate and help serve those agencies needs as well.

KERR Page 36, Appendix H has the Kentucky Emergency Net "Activation Preamble."

CQ CQ the Kentucky Emergency Net. CQ CQ the Kentucky Emergency Net. This net is activated at the request of \_\_\_\_\_ (KY EM, ARC, NWS, etc) due to \_\_\_\_\_ (Explain quickly the situation) This is \_\_\_\_\_ your Net Control Station (location is optional depending on the situation).

Do we have any stations at Emergency Management offices or EOC's across Kentucky? Call now. (Any amateurs operating from City/County or the state EOC should call in at this time.)

We will now call the role of the Kentucky Section by Districts for all other stations. (Roll call will be from District 1 thru 14. Amateurs at their home stations or operating mobile, should check in here.)

Are there any "out of state" stations on frequency? Call now. (Liaisons from other states are always welcome)

The Net Control Station will immediately appoint an Alternate Net Control station who, depending on the situation, may remain on frequency in that capacity or may be directed to establish a Resource net on an alternate frequency.

At this time, general or specific instructions will then be given to those stations on frequency. The Net Control Station will then turn the net over to the Alternate Net Control and will report back to the activating official or authority the number of amateurs responding and their locations. At this time the Net Control Station will gather specific instructions from the activating official or authority for the amateurs available.

It is impossible to predict when, where or how the ARES may be utilized on a statewide basis. However, there must be some conventional method available to activate the Section should the need arise. That being the case and the fact there is no way to write all-inclusive instructions, some basic form for activation must be established. Regardless of the situation you should be able to work with the above information and expand or compress it as needed.

It is mandatory that an Alternate Net Control be appointed when there is a statewide activation. By the time the Net Control Station has called Districts 1 through 14 and turned the net over to the Alternate, there should be enough people on frequency to assist the with relays and establishment of an alternate net frequency if necessary.

The Net Control Station will be the first individual who is contacted by the requesting official or agency. While not specifically spelled out here, It is good practice that any amateur (General Class or above) may activate the KEN in a stand by mode if the need arises and should advise the SEC as soon as possible that this has occurred.

Plans are wonderful, but, there is no substitute for GOOD JUDGMENT!

Source: Kentucky Amateur Radio Web Site – [www.kyham.net](http://www.kyham.net)