

Prince George's County Amateur Radio Emergency Service

(ARES) is a volunteer radio communications service available to Federal, state, county and local governments, as well as non-profit organizations.

What is Amateur Radio?

More than 700,000 U.S. radio operators licensed by the Federal Communications Commission. Amateur Radio is not Citizen's Band Radio.

What is The Amateur Radio Emergency Service?

More than 35,000 amateurs nationwide who have voluntarily registered their services and formed an organized pool of trained operators to provide reliable primary and secondary communications links for government agencies and/or non-profit organizations when needed.

What do Amateur Radio operators do during and after disasters?

Amateur Radio operators set up and operate organized communication networks locally for governmental and emergency officials, as well as non-commercial communication for private citizens affected by the disaster. Amateur Radio operators are most likely to be active after disasters that damage regular lines of communications due to power outages and destruction of telephone, cellular and other infrastructure-dependent systems.

How do Amateur Radio operators help local officials?

Many radio amateurs are active as communications volunteers with local public safety organizations. In addition, in some disasters, radio frequencies are not coordinated among relief officials and Amateur Radio operators step in to coordinate communication when radio towers and other elements in the communications infrastructure are damaged.

Our Purpose

is to implement Part 97.1 of the FCC regulations, and Federal and international treaty law applying to Amateur Radio Service in Prince George's County, Maryland.

97.1 Basis and purpose.

1. Recognition and enhancement of the value of the amateur service to the public as a voluntary non-commercial communication service, particularly with respect to providing emergency communications. . .[Emphasis added]

Meetings and On-the-Air Nets

Prince George's County ARES meets the third Tuesday of each month at 7:30pm at:

Prince George's Co. Fire Services Building
6820 Webster St., Landover Hills, MD 20784

On the air meetings take place on the K3ERA repeater - 145.230- Mhz (pl 110.9) at 7:30pm on every Tuesday. You do not have to be a member of ARES to check into the net. All amateurs are welcome.

Prince George's County Hospital Coalition Project

The main focus of the Prince George's County ARES group is to provide back up communications to a coalition of seven hospitals throughout the county. They are:

Bowie Health Center
15001 Health Center Drive
Bowie, Maryland 20716

Doctor's Community Hospital
8118 Goodluck Road
Lanham, Maryland 20706

Ft. Washington Medical Center
11711 Livingston Rd
Fort Washington, MD 20744

Laurel Regional Hospital
7300 Van Dusen Road
Laurel, Maryland 20707

Prince George's Hospital Center
3001 Hospital Drive
Cheverly, MD 20785

Southern Maryland Hospital Center
7503 Surratts Road
Clinton, Maryland 20735

PrGeo's Health Department
1701 McCormick Drive
Largo, MD 20774-5329

Radio systems have been installed by ham operator's at all seven locations.

Some examples of emergencies that Prince George's County ARES provided emergency communication services:

- Hurricanes Katrina and Rita -- 2005
- Severe weather in Virginia -- May 2004
- Hurricane Isabel -- September 2003
- La Plata, MD Tornado -- April 2002
- Pentagon -- September 2001
- College Park Tornado -- September 2001

Some examples of public services that PG-ARES offered communication services to the public:

- Annual U.S. Marine Corp Marathon
- Various Health Walk-a-thons
- Annual National Night Out Program

PGARES WL2K Express Packet Node

PG-ARES runs a WinLink Express Packet node on the air and connected to the Internet to carry WinLink "AirMail". Airmail is email transmitted via radio link to a RMS Packet Node that then sends it on via Internet to the recipient and back. Our WL2K Node is KA3AHI-10 on 145.750 MHz located at the EOC in Collington, Maryland. PG-ARES also runs two HF Winmor Stations (K3ERA) on 80m (3.575 dial freq) and 40m (7.070 dial freq) also located in Collington, Maryland.

For More Information Web Sites

Prince George's County, Md
PG-ARES/RACES web site:

<http://www.pgares.org/>

Prince George's County, MD
PG-ARES/RACES Yahoo Group reflector:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/PG-AresRaces/>

ARRL web site:

<http://www.arrl.org>

National ARES web site:

<http://www.ares.org/>

Prince George's County Emergency Radio Association – a 501(c)(3) organization. The funding arm of PG-ARES:

<http://www.pgcera.org/>



Prince George's County, MD Amateur Radio Emergency Service



Providing Voluntary Communications In Times of Need

Sponsored By



The American Radio
Relay League

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