

KNOW YOUR AREA

ARES® members are responsible for planning and developing the disaster communications capabilities of their assigned Areas (generally, their home ZIP codes). Implementation of such planning should be based on ARES® resources and coordinated with District and Served-Agency plans.

The Planning process includes a hazard, needs, and existing-capabilities assessment analyzed according to the potential impact of the risk. Actual, first-hand, visual familiarity with existing and changing conditions in the assigned areas is necessary to meaningfully plan communications needs.

Initial responsibility is in the assigned area. Perspectives should include contiguous areas, impacting, and affected areas. Thorough understanding of District-wide operations is developed through co-operative interchange of Plans and ideas. Operators should prepare for service in their areas but remain flexible for reassignment and support use. Regular participation in the routine ARES® net is the expected beginning of the interchange cycle.

OPERATORS SHOULD NOT SPONTANEOUSLY RELOCATE OR “ROAM” unless specifically requested to do so or do so for immediate personal safety reasons. District and served-agency responses are based on all foundation-levels providing information and service in a predictable manner from, to, and as expected in their assigned Areas according to established Plans.

Inefficient duplication of efforts and unanticipated gaps are created if operators do not function within the concept of areas and border-based plans. Mitigation, response/relief, and recovery efforts require utilization of co-operative expectations.

Geographic dispersal and personal knowledge of community realities form a foundation for trustworthy and meaningful understanding of emergency/disaster conditions. Essentially, operators should think and function under a concept of “KNOW YOUR AREA”.

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