

WILSON COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO EMERGENCY SERVICE

OPERATIONS

If an amateur operator who is on-site and best able to assess the prevailing conditions becomes aware of a potential situation that may require a ARES or Skywarn activation, they should immediately monitor the 146.760 or 146.880 repeaters. If you do not hear any traffic after a few minutes, transmit your callsign and ask if anyone has information about a emergency situation.

If the ARES or Skywarn Net is brought up on 146.880 in a standby mode, regular traffic is permissible. However, ARES or Skywarn traffic has priority over normal traffic. When these Nets are in an active mode, regular traffic will be severely limited. Ragchew and other non-germain traffic should be moved to another repeater or to a simplex frequency to allow for the emergency and priority traffic to be passed rapidly.

If contacted by a served agency, or other group, requesting Amateur Radio Emergency Service to cover an event or emergency communications backup, take down as much information as possible, then notify the Wilson County ARES Emergency Coordinator(s) of the request. This will make sure that all requests are routed as quickly as possible to the appropriate support group.

Requests for assistance from other counties should be directed through the affected area EC or AEC. When a request is made for amateurs from other counties, Net control operators must have maps to direct the volunteers to the requested staging area, type of operators needed, Net control or Field operators. Using the four "W's", **Where** are you, **What** do you want, **Where** do you want it, **When** do you want it.

Our frequencies may be monitored during an emergency by the public, served agencies and the news media. All ARES operations should be conducted as friendly, courteously and professionally as possible.

Radios should be preloaded with repeaters frequencies for our area, as well as some of the wide area repeaters outside the area. Test your radio equipment monthly and try to activate these repeaters. Determine your station's simplex range. Remember, radio range will be determined by terrain, antenna heights/gains and radio output power.

Due to the number of locations, we may not be able to provide support, in this case cross-band repeating from the vehicle may be required.

Some areas may be restricted unless you are authorized. Make sure that you have photo identification, any issued badges and a copy of your FCC license.