

## Amateur Radio Emergency Services

### The Amateur Radio Emergency Services (ARES)

ARES is formally guided by national ARRL leadership from the Eastern PA Section, and Region 4.

Locally our region consists of 7 counties (Adams, York, Lancaster, Lebanon, Dauphin, Perry, and Cumberland) under the direction of Ralph Brandt. (K3HQI)

All ARES members are FCC licensed amateurs who have voluntarily registered their qualifications and equipment for communications duty in the public interest, especially when disaster strikes.

### The Auxiliary Communications Service (ACS)

The ACS program is a follow-up to the former Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Services (RACES) program which operated under Civil Defense and is invoked only when the President declares an emergency under the War Powers Act. ACS relies heavily on Amateur Radio, but also includes GMRS radio, citizens band, microwave, and digital communications. Contacts are also maintained with REACT, MARS, CAP, and the Coast Guard Auxiliary.

### HEARS

Hospital Emergency Amateur Radio Service (HEARS) is a key partner for Emergency Communications. It is a group of licensed volunteer amateur radio operators who provide emergency communications to area hospitals.

## Who are the EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS OPERATORS?

EmComm operators are all  
**VOLUNTEERS!**

In an emergency, these volunteers come together to work as a **TEAM!**

They utilize their privately owned equipment. They bring a lot of experience in radio to the field of emergency communications. They are self-sustaining and maintain/fix their own equipment.

### Multiple modes are used to communicate:

Voice with Hand-Held radios, or mobile / portable or base station radios.

Data communications using: **NBEMS\***,  
**Slow Scan Television** (sending pictures via amateur radio)

### And WINLINK

(email via radio signals)

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:**

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\*Narrow Band Emergency Messaging Software

# Y.A.R.S.

York Ares Races Skywarn

**AMATEUR**

**RADIO**

**EMERGENCY SERVICE**

American Radio Relay League

Created in 1914



**York County**

**Office of Emergency Management**

## What is YARS?

**YARS is an acronym for  
York ARES RACES SKYWARN.**

It is an organization composed of interested individuals who are FCC licensed Amateur Radio Operators. Their major purpose is to provide county wide Emergency communications at the York County EOC, various Municipal EOC's, Shelters, CERT, Search and Rescue, and other agencies as directed. **YARS** is composed of Amateur Operators who are registered with ARRL ARES and with the York County Department of Emergency Services (YCDES) as ACS Operators.

**YARS** meets monthly, either at the York County EOC, or on Zoom meetings.

**YARS** is led by a committee including the County EC/ACO along with other members from the YARS organization. The organization continues to evolve.

In addition to supporting emergency management services. **YARS** also participates in public event activities such as: Parades, Walks, Races, and Bike Marathons, and Events.



## Communications: The Key to Survival

When is Amateur Radio Emergency Communications needed?

Amateur Radio Communications are vital during emergencies such as:

**National Disasters / WMD\***

**Tornadoes / Hurricanes**

**Winter / Summer Storms**

**Earthquakes / Floods**

**Nuclear Accidents / "Dirty Bombs"**

**Blackouts / Outages**

**Fires/ Haz-Mat Incidents / Rescues**

Frequently, normal communications sustain damage or are overloaded during these types of emergencies. It is then that YARS Emergency Communications operators become invaluable to emergency managers. YARS operators will relay information to a communications center. This information is provided to and then evaluated by Emergency Management personnel. This method assists in maintaining the flow of valuable "on-scene information".

**\*Weapons of Mass Destruction**



Amateur radio emergency service is also an essential link to help warn people about weather related disasters. Many radio operators participate in **Skywarn**, which is part of the **National Weather Service (NWS)**.

The key focus of the SKY-WARN® program is to save lives and property through the use of the observations and the reports of trained volunteers

**Skywarn** spotters have basic weather training. They assist the NWS by reporting important weather information. This information can be used to help warn the public as quickly as possible about severe weather conditions.

A number of Amateur radio clubs form a Wednesday evening network for weather trained and/or interested ham radio operators to send in local weather reports.

