

Becoming an ARES® member of Amateur Radio can be a rewarding and satisfying endeavor for Amateur Radio operators, especially those who enjoy helping their neighbors and community. However, there are some requirements and things to understand. First and foremost is the person who wishes to join ARES® must have an Amateur Radio license. This of course is a no-brainer. Second, is membership. Just because you are a member of a radio club where there is an ARES® presence does not mean you are a member of ARES®.

The Amateur Radio Emergency Service® is a part of the ARRL, but if you look at the ARES® chain of command, there is no listing for a club as a group in that chain. So, you may ask, “how do I become an ARES® member?” The first thing that you would need to do is download and complete an FSD-98, which is an ARES® application form. When you have completed the form, give it, and a copy of your Amateur Radio License to your ARES® Emergency Coordinator. The EC for Marion County and the Hannibal ARES Net is myself, Donald Vary, KDØHHN. I then review the application to determine if the applicant would be a good fit for the ARES® program. I also let the applicant know about the training requirements I have for the group.

In addition to having a radio license, the mission statement that is posted here on the website has the training requirements that I have. These are completion of the Basic and Intermediate ARES® courses, the National Weather Service storm spotter course and the FEMA Incident Management courses 100,200,700,800 and 802. These courses are available on the FEMA Independent study site, and they do require a FEMA Student ID number to take them. Obtaining an SID is not a complicated process. Also taking a class on traffic handling for the National Traffic System and learning how to handle radiograms will also be required. You will also need to go to the Missouri ARES® website, ares-mo-org and download the skills book, print it off and complete it as needed,

Finally, there are some things that everyone who is or wants to become an ARES® member needs to think about and remember. Even though we are amateurs, we still think, act and dress professionally. This covers not only your actions, but your attire as well. There is an attached dress code for ARES® members that I have recently developed. Also, I ask that all ARES® members DO NOT post any ARES® related incidents to any social media site until it is reviewed by me. I will be developing an ARES® facebook page soon and all posts can be done there. One of the most important things to remember is that when deployed to assist an agency, whether it be Red Cross, Health Dept. etc., we DO NOT tell the served agencies what to do or what we will do. If they ask you to do something

that is within the scope of our duties, or is not a hazardous situation, we do it. If they ask you to help load supplies, and you are physically able to and are not needed on the air at that moment, then help with the loading. or whatever. Finally, when you are issued your ARES® ID, the Expiration date is marked as “Indefinite”. This means that you are considered a member as to such time you do not wish to participate or until I have a reason to revoke your membership.