

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 K3GMR repeater - 146.610- Mhz (no pl) at 7:30pm on every Tuesday. You do not have to be a member of ARES to check into the net.

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 operators 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 RMS Packet Nodes

We have two WinLink200 RMS Packet nodes 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 Nodes are W3PGC-10 on 145.750 MHz and W3PGC-15 on 449.975 MHz located at the EOC in Landover Hills, MD.

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, MD
Amateur Radio
Emergency Service**



**Providing Voluntary
Communications
In Times of Need**

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**The American Radio
Relay League**

