

# ***Press Backgrounder*** **Amateur Radio Public Event Support**

**New Hampshire Section**  
**ARRL – The National Association for Amateur Radio®**

## **What is Public Service Communication Support?**

In addition to being an interesting and multi-faceted hobby, the Amateur or “ham” radio service also provides communications in support of public events and emergencies of all kinds.

Examples of non-emergency public events we provide communications for include walkathons, bikeathons, road races, marathons, triathlons, parades, and Scout jamborees. By providing communications and related services, we help the sponsoring organization to run a safer and more successful event. Among other things, we help keep track of participants, locate missing persons, arrange for the timely delivery of supplies, and relay calls for medical assistance.

## **Why Do Hams Do This?**

Ham radio operators have always been a public-spirited group. From the very beginnings of the Amateur Radio Service, the FCC has encouraged hams to provide public service and emergency communications to non-profit organizations and government agencies.

As a result, the Amateur Radio community has always made a strong commitment to helping the public. Many hams are also members of the Amateur Radio Emergency Service® (ARES®), a national program sponsored by ARRL – the National Association for Amateur Radio.

One of the benefits of helping with non-emergency events is that it allows hams to practice certain skills and test equipment and techniques that may be needed in an emergency situation. Since 1910, hams have been providing backup emergency communication services to various government and non-profit disaster relief agencies such as FEMA, Red Cross, Salvation Army, local police and fire departments, hospitals, and state and local emergency management agencies.

The 200+ members of the New Hampshire Amateur Radio Emergency Service (NH-ARES) have always provided generous support to both public service and emergency communication efforts in the New Hampshire. Present operations are in support of New Hampshire Homeland Security & Emergency Management, the American Red Cross, New Hampshire Hospital Association, and the National Weather Service Skywarn program, as well as numerous towns and cities.

## **For More Information:**

For information about the New Hampshire Section of ARRL, visit [www.arrl-nh.org](http://www.arrl-nh.org)

For information about the New Hampshire ARES, visit [www.nh-ares.org](http://www.nh-ares.org)

For ARRL/ARES national press information and contacts, visit [www.arrl.org/pio](http://www.arrl.org/pio).