

DeKalb ARES INITIAL COMMUNICATION SOP Rev 02/11/2025

This procedure is used by DeKalb County ARES Emergency Coordinator, **AEC** and individual DKARES members when a significant event or incident has taken place requiring emergency communications.

First things first (all DKARES members)

1. Before you respond, check that your family are safe and secure, then your property. Remember that when the phone lines are jammed, text messages may still go through.
2. Monitor local TV and radio stations for news and updates.
3. The foremost rule for DKARES members is we do not self-deploy. When an amateur radio operator becomes aware of an event that may require additional communications resources for which they may be suited, establish communications with the DeKalb ARES EC and AEC.
4. Monitor the W4BOC Repeater, 146.76 MHz (-) PL 107.2. If the 146.76 machine is not working, monitor the W4BOC Repeater, 145.45 (-) PL 107.2 as the alternate. Listen for other neighboring repeaters such as North Fulton ARES 147.06 (-) PL 100, Gwinnett ARES 147.075 (+) PL 82.5 or Atlanta ARES 146.82 (-) PL 146.2, to name a few.
5. Be on the alert for text messages from DKARES EC and/or AEC. If the internet is working, check your email, including your Winlink address (via RF or Telnet). If the internet is not working, try to connect to WD5EMA-10 or another RMS Winlink packet station. To contact DKARES use the address ec@dekalbares.org.
6. Get your VHF, HF and 72-hour go-kits ready to go.
7. Start beaconing, if capable, on APRS using both RF and/or IS. Use the following SSID for your callsign: -10 (fixed station, such as home), -7 (foot mobile, typically HT) and (-9 for vehicle). The APRS.fi app is very powerful and can be used with a number of radios on RF via a TNC or modem like Mobilinkd, or simply WiFi/5G.
8. If capable, connect to D-RATS:
(<https://github.com/ham-radio-software/D-Rats>, <http://www.dstarinfo.com/drats.aspx>).
The D-RATS DeKalb ARES rafflelector is *dares.dyndns.org*, port 9000.

Initial Contact Procedure used by EC and AEC

All DeKalb ARES members should monitor the following channels and wait for instructions:

Condition-1 ASG - All Systems Go:

If cell phone systems (land lines), email, and area repeaters are available:

Use the phone, email, text message and the 146.76 MHz (-) PL 107.2 repeater to reach DeKalb ARES members, exchange situational information and establish the initial communication protocol and needs. Request stations to send field situation reports (using ICS forms) and other reports via Winlink.

Condition-2 PDRU - Phones are Down, Repeater are Up:

If cell phone, land line systems, and email are inoperable, but repeaters are available, monitor the repeater. Establish a net, using standard protocol. For transmitting large amounts of information, instruct members to send filed situation reports and other forms to WD5EMA@winlink.org via Winlink. If Internet is not reliable, a P2P Winlink structure of target stations and field stations may be preferable.

Condition-3 PDRD - Phones are Down and Repeater are Down:

If cell phones/land lines are down and the 146.76 MHz (-) PL 107.2 and the 145.45 MHz (-) 107.2 PL repeaters are down, or unreachable, use the DeKalb ARES simplex frequency 146.46 MHz FM.

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If you can do HF, tune to the 10-meter frequency 28.330 MHz (USB). DeKalb ARES leadership will notify ARES members of the nature and extent of the event, next steps, and communication protocol (frequencies & modes) being established.

Message Example:

“CQ CQ CQ DeKalb ARES Members. This is <NAME>, <EC/AEC>, there has been an <EVENT NAME>. At the top of each hour, tune to XXX MHz using XXX mode for further instructions.”

Summary of **PDRD** Condition Deployment Modes and Frequencies, in order of priority:

1. Use DeKalb ARES simplex frequency 146.46 MHz.
2. If HF capable, use 28.330 MHz (USB).
3. Send deployment instructions to ALL DeKalb ARES members via Winlink, using telnet, packet to WD5EMA (145.59 MHz, 2m), VARA HF to N5TW (14.110 MHz, center), KJ4YLO (7.103.5 MHz, center), and WX4PCA-10 (3.591 MHz center). If you have Internet access, first attempt to retrieve your instructions via telnet to minimize congestion. If no instructions are received via telnet, attempt to retrieve your message from WD5EMA-10, N5TW, KJ4YLO or WX4PCA-10 via RF, as they may have a local copy of NCS messages, but are unable to deliver to a Common Message Server (CMS).

Wilderness Protocol: If a DeKalb ARES member is called to activate in the wilderness, you should announce your presence on, and monitor, the national 2-meter calling frequency (146.52 MHz) for five minutes beginning at the top of the hour, every three hours from 7 AM to 7PM. A ham in this situation may be able to relay emergency information through another ham that has better access to a repeater.

NOTE II: For state-wide emergencies, EC and AEC will communicate with Georgia ARES. The Georgia ARES HF Emergency Protocol is as follows:

Frequencies

The following frequencies and modes are used by Georgia ARES in emergencies.

<u>Frequency</u>	<u>Mode</u>	<u>Function</u>
3.975.0 MHz	LSB	Primary 75-meter frequency
7.285.0 MHz	LSB	Primary 40-meter frequency
5.330.5 MHz	USB	60-meter Calling frequency (Amateur Radio Secondary Use)
3.583.0 MHz	USB	80-meter digital frequency MT63-1000S or PSK31

Times and Timing

To conserve battery power, this protocol will begin at 0800 hrs., 1200 hrs., and 1600 hrs. Local time. Each time slot will last for one hour using the following format.

HH:00 to HH:15 – listen on 3.975.0 MHz LSB
HH:15 to HH:30 – listen on 7.285.0 MHz LSB
HH:30 to HH:45 – listen on 5.330.5 MHz USB
HH:45 to HH:00 – listen on 3.583.0 MHz USB PSK31

During these periods, attempt to make contact if another station is heard. Be sure to copy (write down) any information heard at these times and frequencies. Stations on battery or generator may wish to shut down between sessions to conserve power.