



<http://denverares.org>

## Welcome To Denver ARES

“The Amateur Radio Emergency Service, a program of the ARRL, offers to its partners at all levels, trained Amateur Radio Service licensees who are skilled in the use of a wide range of emergency and disaster communications techniques and who are committed to supporting our partner’s missions in service to the public.”(1)

### Welcome

Welcome to the Denver ARES group – as part of the national Amateur Radio Emergency Services organization, Denver ARES works with our served agency – The Denver Office Of Emergency Services to provide emergency communications. This organization relies on communications during incidents, and all too often traditional communication systems can fail.

### What Fails?

Many events like 9-11, Katrina, wildfires and floods in Colorado Springs and Boulder, and more recently, the hurricane devastation to Puerto Rico have demonstrated the vulnerability of existing emergency communications resources.

On 9/11 the radio tower tumbled from the top of the World Trade Center building. That tower was the backbone of New York City's emergency radio network. Cell phone systems are made for “average” levels of usage. They fail when over-loaded because every cell phone user tries to make a call at the same time. 911 dispatch and first responder radios become overloaded. Wild fires and floods destroy mountain top radio systems, topple power lines and destroy roads and bridges.

- The goal of the Denver Office of Emergency Management is to bring the right capability to the right place at the right time to meet the needs of the City and County of Denver during an emergency.
- The Goal Of Denver ARES: To provide radio communications when all else fails.

### What Does ARES Do?

Amateur radio operators called upon by Denver’s emergency management will respond to the Emergency Operations Center located in the Denver City & County Building. They operate two stations capable of both voice and data transmission on the two meter and 70 centimeter amateur bands. Generator power, easily transportable transceivers and special antennas are available for field use. Radio contact will be established and maintained with other stations located at shelters, incident

command posts, and other designated spots throughout Denver. In addition to local radio contacts, ARES members are equipped to reach stations throughout Colorado and other states.

## How is ARES organized?

The top level of the national organization is based around the 15 ARRL Divisions, each comprising one or more individual states and territories. These states and territories are represented as “Sections” in the ARES organization. There are 71 administrative Sections, and Denver ARES is part of the Colorado Section of the Rocky Mountain Division.

Each section in, in turn broken down into multiple Regions, Colorado has 9 regions, and we are in Region 1 – the North Central Region (often abbreviated to “NCR”). Each Region is further broken down into Districts, often based on specific counties, so we are in District 4 – Denver. For many ARES groups, this is as far as the administrative org chart goes, however, some Districts may support multiple groups within the District.

So to wrap it up We are The Denver District (#4) of the North Central Region (#1) of the Colorado Section of the Rocky Mountain Division of the ARRL ARES organization. Before you let that mouthful get in the way, we are generally referred to as Denver ARES, or R1D4, which is a lot easier to say on the radio.

## How do I get started?

As you can imagine, with an organization that spans the country and is focused on communication, we need to make sure that everyone is speaking a common language and shares a common understanding of the job. That means the first steps are training! (Well, not the first step – you already took that when you got your radio license and applied to Denver ARES)

Denver ARES relies on a combination of national training provided by FEMA, Colorado State courses provided through the Co-Train (a state wide training system) and our own local training. The initial training is all free on-line web courses that cover the basics of incident response structure, emergency communications (EmComm) protocols, and incident response.

### Online Courses:

To get started, you will need to register with a couple of online systems:

#### FEMA Student ID

You begin by getting your FEMA student ID number, this opens the door to literally hundreds of national training courses. To begin with you will need three:

- IS-100
- IS-200
- IS-700

Before you jump in to these courses, let's get you set up with the tool that will help you track and record your training.

To set up your FEMA Student ID go to <https://cdp.dhs.gov/femasid/register> and register. You should get your SID almost immediately.

### **Co-Train**

Co-Train is the focal point for all your on-line training, whether at the federal, state, or local level. Now that you have your FEMA SID, you can create an account at Co-Train. Here is a link to the registration instructions for CO-Train.

[https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/sites/default/files/PF\\_WIC\\_CO.TRAIN-Quick-Guide\\_2.pdf](https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/sites/default/files/PF_WIC_CO.TRAIN-Quick-Guide_2.pdf)

As soon as you are registered with Co-Train, you can look up courses by their course number and begin the online training.

### **Colorado Volunteer Mobilizer**

The final step to becoming an accredited Denver ARES member is to register with the Colorado Volunteer Mobilizer, and get your credentials. This will involve a bi-annual background check and will get you your State issued Colorado Volunteer photo ID.

<https://covolunteers.state.co.us/agreement.php>

Register as Radio Operator – HAM, and Denver ARES (Region 1, District 4)

## **Classroom training:**

### **First Aid and CPR**

### **Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)**

Provided by the City and County of Denver, Office of Emergency Management

## **How do I get help?**

So, this probably seems a little challenging! But don't worry – everyone on the Denver ARES team is committed to helping you succeed. You also have to be assigned a mentor, to help you navigate the process. Anytime you have a question, need advice, or just want to chat give your mentor a call, or touch base with any of us on the air during our weekly net or at the monthly face to face meeting. We are all here to help!

Join our weekly net at 7PM on 146.670 MHz, -, 100 tone (There is no net the night of the monthly meeting).

Attend our monthly meeting: Denver ARES meets at the Red Cross Building, 444 Sherman Street, on the last Tuesday of each month at 6PM.

Visit the web site at [denverares.org](http://denverares.org)

## References

- (1) ARRL ARES Plan, 2019