



# ARES COMMUNICATOR

Information for Scott County Amateurs



November, 2011

Accurate, Reliable Emergency Communications

Volume 11, Number 11

## BlackBerry Talking Again

BlackBerry services buzzed back to life across the world after a three-day outage early in October that interrupted email messages and Internet services for millions of customers.

When contacted on October 12<sup>th</sup>, Research In Motion Ltd., the maker of the phones, said the system was back to normal and they were flushing through stalled messages.

Some phones that had been out of touch for a long time may need to have their batteries pulled out and put back in to regain a connection to the network.

A crucial link in BlackBerry's European network failed Monday, and a backup also failed. That immediately cut off service for most users in Europe, the Middle East, Africa, India, Chile, Brazil and Argentina.

Although the underlying issues were quickly repaired, the system had built up a backlog of emails and messages that needed to be wound down. Meanwhile, messages destined for the affected countries were piling up at BlackBerry data centers in the rest of world, slowing service everywhere. After the second day, the outage had spread to the U.S. and Canada.

Research in Motion executives said they had not made plans yet to compensate customers, but they are turning their attention to the question.

"That is something we plan to come back to these customers on very soon. ... Our priority right up until this moment (has been) making sure the system's up and run-

**BlackBerry** cont'd on page 2



## ARES/NTS Interim Report

ARES and the National Traffic System exist as the ARRL's implementation of the basic principle stated in 97.1(a), "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." The Emergency Communications Advisory Committee (ECAC) was tasked by the ARRL Board of Directors' Programs and Services Committee to recommend improvements to ARES® and NTS so that the amateur service can better serve the public in providing emergency communications. Assigned study topics include, but are not limited to, ARES and NTS objectives and organizational structures; integration between ARES and NTS; training, certification, and credentialing; and relationships with served agencies.

ECAC Chairman Dale Williams, WA8EFK, has filed an interim progress report with the PSC, and reported that the panel of ECAC members from across the country "began this challenging assignment immediately.

Knowing that both ARES and NTS operations across the country are based in strong legacies, proven methodologies

**ARES / NTS** cont'd on page 2

## ARES Activities

**Weekly Net Monday 7 PM 146.535 mhz (s)**

**Breakfast Saturday, November 12th**

**Digital Monday November 14 th**

### ARES Nets

MN ARES Phone Net		
	6:00PM Sunday	Freq: 3.568 mhz
ARRL MN Phone Net		
	12:00p, 4:30p CST Daily	Freq: 3.568 mhz
ARRL MN CW Net		
	6:30p, 9:50p CST Daily	Freq: 3.568 mhz

### NETS WITH OUR NEIGHBORS

North Dakota:	Daily 3.937 mhz	6:30pm
South Dakota:	Daily 3.870 mhz	6:00pm
Wisconsin:	Daily 3.985 mhz	5:30pm
Iowa:	Daily 3.970 mhz	12:30/5:30pm

The ARES COMMUNICATOR is published for the benefit of Amateur Radio Operators in Scott County and other interested individuals.

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Reader submissions encouraged!

## BlackBerry Talking - cont'd from page 1

ning,” executives said. “We’re going to fully commit to win that trust back.”

BlackBerry users don’t pay the company directly for its email and messaging services. Instead, the phone companies pay RIM on behalf of their subscribers. A RIM official said carriers haven’t asked for compensation yet. “This has not been about pointing fingers,” he said. “This has been about serving customers.”

BREAK - OVER



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## ARES / NTS Report - cont'd from page 1

and expertise, our initial effort was to capture field opinions of the current status of both organizations.” “Our immediate goal is to determine how ARES and NTS are viewed by those directly involved,” Williams said. “We need to understand the good features of both groups, where we are in terms of capabilities, where we should be, what shortcomings we face, and how we can best make any needed changes.”

Williams reported that over a period of 60 days, “we prepared survey questions to be introduced to the leadership of both groups. Using two independent teams, we developed an extensive series of questions for the field organization. These were evaluated and combined to form the basis of our planned surveys. To minimize the potential for rumor and innuendo to negatively affect the surveys, we sent advanced copies of both to the NTS leadership for their review and to Section Managers for forwarding to their individual SECs for their viewing. This also afforded the opportunity for the field leadership to offer input and suggestions about the prepared questions and their format. We accepted the field replies and incorporated several changes to the surveys.”

Williams found that “our initial information effort outlined above resulted in early feedback that indicates there may be a need for major paradigm shifts in expectations, organizational structures and how we train the general ham population for handling traffic in an emergency. We know initially that both ARES and NTS are wildly different across the country. Some units function very well, some are quite dysfunctional. We intend to discover why the differences exist and how the Best Practices of the successful groups can be translated into successes for problem groups.”

The final version of the survey forms was accepted by the ECAC at a September 14 conference call and the ECAC is now preparing to release the surveys to the field, NTS Managers, and SM/SECs.

Williams concluded that “plans call for a thorough review of the reported data, the building of a report matrix, completion of any necessary follow-up work and then the results analysis. Our next report should contain the analysis and an outline of the project projections.”

It must be emphasized that nothing has been decided and only information is being sought at this time by the ECAC, which exists solely as an advisory committee to make recommendations to the League’s Board of Directors.

BREAK - OVER

## What is the NTS?

The National Traffic System (NTS) is a structure that allows for rapid movement of message traffic from origin to destination and training amateur operators to handle written traffic and participate in directed nets.

These two objectives are the underlying foundations of the NTS. It's a system that operates daily, even continuously with advanced digital links.

The NTS consists of operators who usually participate for one or two periods a week, and some who are active daily.

The National Traffic System is an organized effort to handle traffic in accordance with a plan that is

easily understood, and employs modern network methods of

NTS is a deterrent for independent traffic handling, not intended as

When ne- overload or traffic, the facilities of such networks

can function as alternate traffic routings where this is indicated in the best interest of efficient message relay and/

or delivery.

One of the most important features of NTS is the system concept. No NTS net is an independent entity that can

conduct its activities without concern for or consideration of other NTS nets. Each net performs its function and only its

function in the overall organization. If nets fail to perform their functions or perform functions intended for other nets,

the overall system may be adversely affected. Nets may sometimes find it necessary to adopt temporary measures to

ensure the movement of traffic, however.

The best way to get to know the National Traffic System is to hook up with a local NTS traffic net in your area where

messages (Radiograms) are entered and others are accepted for delivery by mail or phone. You can find a directory of

NTS nets at: <http://www.arrl.org/arrl-net-directory-search>

BREAK - OVER



## Test Your NIMS Knowledge

This month we will review some of the points from the course ICS-200b: ICS for Single Resources and Initial Action Incidents. Check your recall of the course material with these questions.

1) \_\_\_\_\_ means that each individual involved in incident operations will be assigned to only one supervisor.

- A. Span of Control
- B. Unity of Command
- C. Supervisor Authority
- D. Unified Command

2) Which Section is responsible for handling claims related to property damage, injuries, or fatalities at the incident?

- A. Logistics Section
- B. Operations Section
- C. Finance/Administration Section
- D. Planning Section

*Check next month's ARES Communicator for the solution*

## October NIMS Knowledge Solution

1. These levels of the ICS organization may have Deputy positions:

- Branch
- Incident Commander
- \_\_\_\_\_
- D. Section

2. Resources within the Staging Areas:

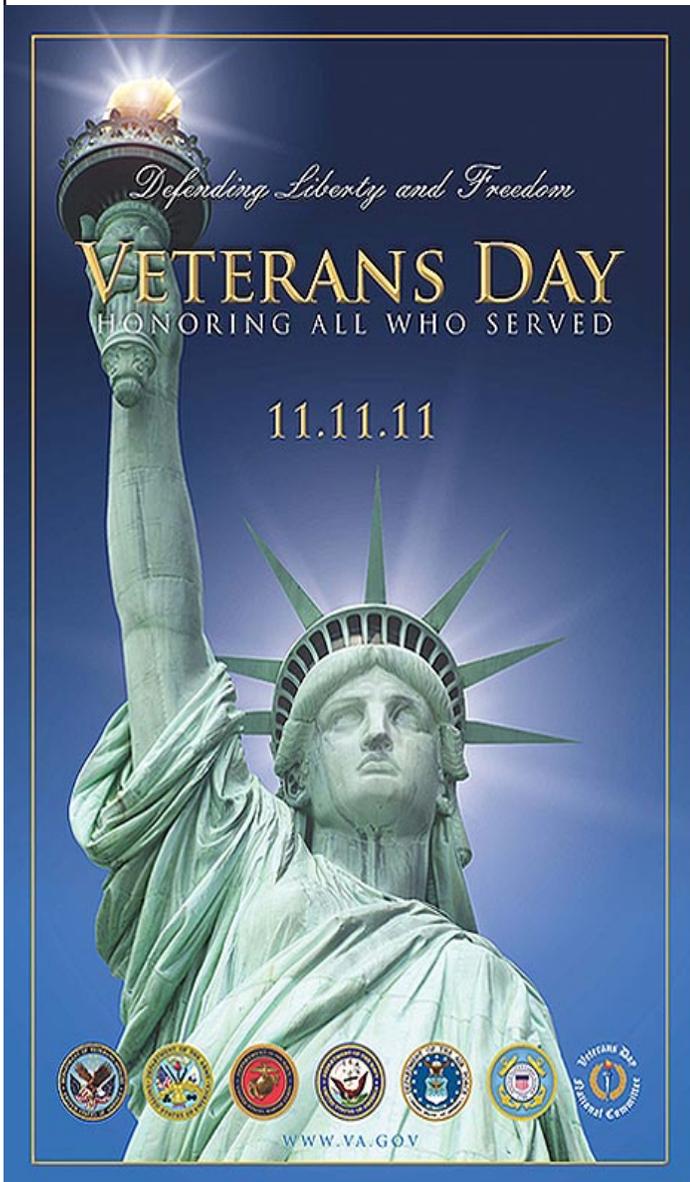
- B. Are awaiting operational assignment



### Minnesota NTS Nets

Net Name	Freq	Days	Local Time
MN ARES HF Net	3.86	SN	6:00 PM
MN Phone Net-Noon	3.86	DY	12:00 PM
MN Phone Net-Eve	3.86	DY	5:30 PM
MN Sect. Net	3.86	DY	5:30 PM
MN Sect. Net	3.568	DY	6:30 PM
MN Sect. Net (CW)	3.568	DY	9:45 PM
MN Sect. Net II3.568	DY	9:45 PM	
MN Sect. Net, Cycle 4	3.568	DY	6:30 PM
MN Sect. Noon Net	3.86	DY	12:00 PM





In his 1954 Veterans Day Proclamation, President Dwight D. Eisenhower called for the formation of a Veterans Day National Committee to oversee national planning and coordination of the Veterans Day observance. He named the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs, Harvey V. Higley, as Chairman of committee and called upon the heads of all departments and agencies of the executive branch of the government to assist the committee in every way possible.

Administrator Higley called together leaders of veterans' groups and asked them to serve on the committee. Committee.

The committee meets three times a year in Washington, D.C., to plan Veterans Day activities, including selecting a national Veterans Day poster, recognizing regional observances that serve as model events to honor America's veterans, and hosting the national ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery.

BREAK - OVER

## Take a Dip in the General Pool

Time to test your knowledge of the information covered by the General Class license exam. Each month we'll take a look at a selection from the question pool. Here is this month's sample:

- 1) Which of the following would disqualify a third party from participating in stating a message over an amateur station?
  - A. The third party's amateur license had ever been revoked
  - B. The third party is not a U.S. citizen
  - C. The third party is a licensed amateur
  - D. The third party is speaking in a language other than English, French, or Spanish
  
- 2) Which of the following conditions require an Amateur Radio station to take specific steps to avoid harmful interference to other users or facilities?
  - A. When operating within one mile of an FCC Monitoring Station
  - B. When using a band where the Amateur Service is secondary
  - C. When a station is transmitting spread spectrum emissions
  - D. All of these choices are correct

*(Check next month's issue of the ARES Communicator for the answer.)*

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*May your troubles be less,  
Your blessings be more,  
And nothing but happiness  
come through your door*

Irish Blessing

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## October General Pool Answer

1. Volunteer Examiners are accredited by what organization?
  - C. A Volunteer Examiner Coordinator
  
2. What is the minimum age that one must be to qualify as an accredited Volunteer Examiner?
  - B. 18 years

## SACS Marathon 2011

Is this a great day for a Walk-a-thon or what! That was the feeling on the morning of Saturday October 1<sup>st</sup> as Scott ARES volunteers gathered for a pre-event briefing. The ARES volunteers reviewed our responsibilities to the Shakopee Area Catholic Schools, the served agency, for the morning activity. Radios were programmed, checked, and course locations assigned.

The crowd of eager walkers gathered before the start at the school in anticipation of their fundraising walk. The event went off with nary a hitch during the roughly three hours walkers circled the course.

There was one bit of confusion when the walkers spontaneously changed the course which required a quick re-deployment of radio operators. Another situation was



identified where many of the young cyclists discovered too late that they were going too fast to make a right turn! A biker or two had an intimate meeting with the traffic signal on the corner however there were no serious injuries beyond some bruised feelings.

The Walk-a-thon was declared a success by everyone involved.



The ARES volunteers ready for action: (l to r) Jacob, KD0PLC, Bob, W0NFE, Tony, KC0YHH, Bob, KB0FH with Dan, N0PI behind the camera.



They are off! Somewhere in the melee, school principal Scott gives the starting signal as the walk-a-thoners begin their laps. W0NFE photo



The walkers make the first turn after leaving the school. Eager cyclists are ready for a morning ride. W0NFE photo



A determined biker presses on while Tony, KC0YHH, mans the halfway point on the course at Sarazan Ave. and Valley View Road. W0NFE photo

**SACS Marathon 2011**

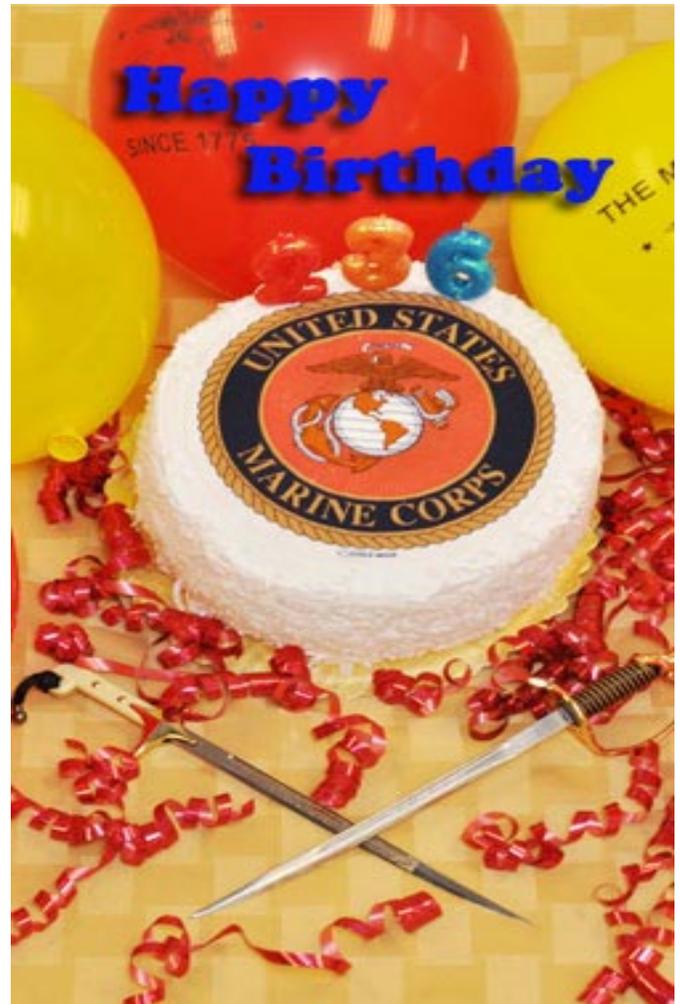


Dan, N0PI, helps a school volunteer with traffic control at the corner of Independence and Valley View Road while providing communications. W0NFE photo



Daddy, my bike is tired, can you carry it for me?  
N0PI photo

Gary, KD0PON, joined the race in progress and monitored the intersection of Pheasant Run and Valley Vier Road. W0NFE photo



**A Legacy Is Born**

During the American Revolution, many important political discussions took place in the inns and taverns of Philadelphia, including the founding of the Marine Corps.

A committee of the Continental Congress met at Tun Tavern to draft a resolution calling for two battalions of Marines able to fight for independence at sea and on shore.

The resolution was approved on November 10, 1775, officially forming the *Continental Marines*.

As the first order of business, Samuel Nicholas became Commandant of the newly formed Marines. Tun Tavern's owner and popular patriot, Robert Mullan, became his first captain and recruiter. They began gathering support and were ready for action by early 1776.

Each year, the Marine Corps marks November 10th with a celebration of the brave spirit which compelled these men and thousands since to defend our country as United States Marines.

*Some people spend an entire lifetime wondering if they made a difference in the world. But the Marines don't have that problem.*

## Call Soup

A common trait among emergency communicators seems to be the desire to improve their skills. The goal of ARES members is to communicate information accurately and rapidly. Accuracy is always our primary objective. If we deliver the wrong message in record time, well, let's just say we weren't much help!

Our directed net procedures are designed to minimize all transmissions not part of the actual message. We all know that prowords and prosigns are part of an efficient operation that reduces unnecessary blabber and speeds net operation and accuracy.

We often shoot ourselves in the foot with our station identification habits. We tend to 'do it like we heard' and that isn't always the most efficient emergency operation practice. During casual amateur conversation we often follow the tradition of responding to a station with their callsign and then our callsign at the beginning of each exchange in the conversation. This does let other casual listeners know the identities of both stations in communications. Due to propagation on the HF bands it is not unusual to hear only one side of a conversation so this station identification practice does have a useful purpose.

The conditions during emergency communications are different in many important ways. First, the net control station (NECOS) always knows who is talking to whom. Always. The NECOS directs the communications on the net. Two stations wouldn't be talking directly to one another unless they were directed to do so by the NECOS.

Second, our ARES emergency communications generally take place over a VHF point-to-point network, often using simplex, and tactical callsigns.

Third, our communications objective is accurate, rapid movement of information for our served agency.

Yah but the FCC requires station ID. That is true. The Part 97 rules spell out the station ID requirements in § 97.119. Paragraph (a) states:

*Each amateur station must transmit its assigned call sign on its transmitting channel at the end of each communication, and at least every 10 minutes during a communication, for the purpose of clearly*

*making the source of the transmissions from the station known to those receiving the transmissions. No station may transmit unidentified communications or signals, or transmit as the station call sign, any call sign not authorized to the station.*

The rules clearly require that you only identify your station at the end of a communication. A communication may involve several exchanges between two stations before reaching a conclusion. You do not have to ID your station during a conversation unless the exchanges last longer than ten minutes. Hopefully any emergency messages are shorter than ten minutes!

During your contact, that has been directed by the NECOS, you simply use the proword 'OVER'. When you are ending your last exchange, close with your callsign and the proword 'OUT'.

When you close with your FCC callsign and the proword 'OUT' the other station knows you have nothing further and may also respond with their FCC callsign and the proword 'OUT'. This exchange is a signal to the NECOS that communications have been completed and the

NECOS resumes control of the net.

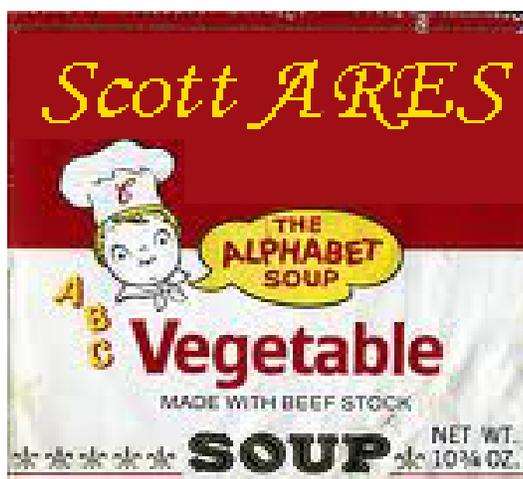
We have eliminated all the time wasted in a typical exchange: "KA6WAS this is KC0STC" at the beginning of an exchange and "Back to you KA6WAS this is KC0STC OVER". All this dialogue is replaced with either the proword 'OVER' or "KC0STC OUT". Short. Simple. Efficient.

Let's quit cooking up servings of call soup during our directed net communications. We will do a better job of accurate, rapid communications for our served agency if we stop serving call soup during a directed net.

Next month we'll take a look at tactical callsigns and see how they work to promote efficient operation.

You can find the Part 97 FCC regulations at: <http://www.arrl.org/part-97-amateur-radio> or <http://www.w5yi.org/page.php?id=57>. Check out the rules for yourself and download a copy.

BREAK - OVER



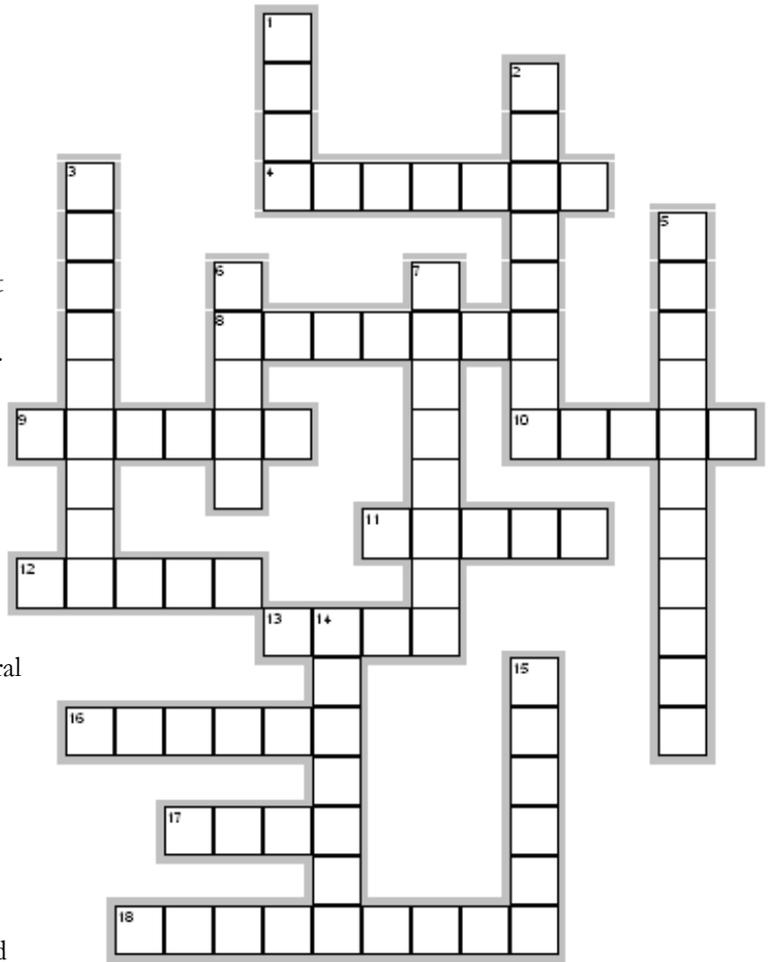


**Across**

4. A part of a bird's stomach that contains tiny stones. It helps them grind up food for digestion.
8. This subspecies is only found on the Florida peninsula.
9. The flap of skin under the turkey's chin. Turns bright red when the turkey is upset or during courtship.
10. What do male turkeys have (on their legs) that females do not?
11. A first year female is called a \_\_\_\_\_
12. A cluster of long, hairlike feathers from the center of the adult male turkey's chest.
13. Female turkeys
16. This southwestern turkey ranges throughout the central portion of Mexico into the southernmost parts of New Mexico and Arizona.
17. A first year male is called a \_\_\_\_\_
18. Both males and females have fleshy growths on their heads known as \_\_\_\_\_

**Down**

1. A grouping of turkeys in the late summer/early fall.
2. This subspecies ranges along the Rocky Mountains and the neighboring prairies of Wyoming, Montana and South Dakota.
3. This is the cowboy of the turkeys ranging through Texas and up into Oklahoma, Kansas and Colorado. Also found



- in parts of the northwestern states.
5. This person tried to convince the Continental Congress that the wild turkey should be our national bird.



**October Corssword Solution  
NIMS ICS 100**

**Across**

1. SPANOFCONTROL—The number of resources for which a supervisor is responsible, usually expressed as the ratio of supervisors to individuals.
3. LIAISONOFFICER—A member of the Command Staff responsible for coordinating with representatives from cooperating and assisting agencies or organizations.
5. INCIDENT—An occurrence or event, natural or manmade, that requires a response to protect life or property.
10. LOGISTICSSECTION—The Section responsible for providing facilities, services, and material support for the incident.

**Down**

2. OPERATIONSSECTION—The Section responsible for all tactical incident operations and implementation of the Incident

- Action Plan. It normally includes subordinate Branches, Divisions, and/or Groups.
4. DEMOBILIZATION—The orderly, safe, and efficient return of an incident resource to its original location and status.
6. CAMP—A geographical site within the general incident area that is equipped and staffed to provide sleeping, food, water, and sanitary services to incident personnel.
7. SUPERVISOR—The Incident Command System title for an individual responsible for a Division or Group.
8. EVACUATION—Organized, phased, and supervised withdrawal, dispersal, or removal of civilians from dangerous or potentially dangerous areas, and their reception and care in safe areas.
9. BASE—The location at which primary Logistics functions for an incident are coordinated and administered. There is only one per incident.

## Why The FEMA Courses?

For many years, Amateur Radio has longed to be taken seriously by governmental authorities as a professional-quality resource in disaster response. Although there are areas of the country where achieving and maintaining emergency management agencies' respect is still a struggle, Amateur Radio's service during 9/11 and the major hurricane disasters has brought us a new level of respect and new opportunities at the national level.

Being taken seriously as a resource comes with a price, however, that must be paid by individual volunteers, not in dollars but in precious personal time. When the federal government instituted the National Incident Management System (NIMS), it imposed a set of requirements on state and local emergency management agencies and their personnel. Affected personnel include not only paid employees of emergency management and related agencies but also volunteers such as those in volunteer fire companies, ARES, and RACES. If the emergency management agencies are to continue receiving federal funds, personnel must complete a number of FEMA training courses having to do with the Incident Command System (ICS) and NIMS. Individuals who do not complete the training will not be allowed to participate, even as volunteers.

These FEMA courses are free of charge, available on line or sometimes in person at emergency management offices, and not particularly difficult. The courses are useful in familiarizing volunteers with the principles of the Incident Command System and showing where communications fits into the ICS structure. These formal requirements are here to stay and more may follow. At the national level, Amateur Radio has earned the respect we always wanted, bringing us closer to the emergency management establishment. - excerpted from the ARRL National Emergency Response Planning Committee Report (2007)

Scott ARES Required Courses:

FEMA IS-100  
FEMA IS-200  
FEMA IS-700  
FEMA IS-800

Recommended Courses

- ARRL [Introduction to Emergency Communication](#)-  
Course #: EC-001. This is a revision of the former  
Emergency Communications Basic/Level 1 course. This



on-line course is designed to provide basic knowledge and tools for any emergency communications volunteer. Prerequisites: ICS-100 (IS-100.b) (Introduction to the Incident Command System); and IS -700 (National Incident Management System). Also recommended, but

not required, are: IS-250, Emergency Support Function 15 (ESF15), External Affairs; and IS-

288, The Role of Voluntary Agencies in Emergency Management. The course covers: The Framework: How You Fit In; The Networks for Messages; Message Handling; What Happens When Called; Operations & Logistics; Safety & Survival; and What to Expect in Large Disasters.

*BREAK - OVER*



**Q. What do you get when you cross a  
Bison with an Eagle?**

**A. Buffalo wings!**

**HAPPY THANKSGIVING**



### **ARES Breakfast**

Saturday, November 12th  
7:30AM  
Perkins Restaurant  
Savage, MN

### **NECOS Schedule November 2011**

**7 Nov KC0YHH Tony**  
**14 Nov N0PI Dan**  
**21 Nov W0NFE Bob**  
**28 Nov KB0FH Bob**  
**5 Dec KC0YHH Tony**  
**12 Dec N0PI Dan**