



Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) Backup Communications

FACTS

The Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) is a group of licensed Ham Radio Operators who have voluntarily registered their qualifications and equipment, with their local ARES leadership, for communications duty in the public service when disaster strikes.

Amateur radios, also known as ham radios, can serve communities when storms or other disasters damage critical communication infrastructure, including cell towers, and wired and wireless networks. These radios can function completely independently of the internet and phone systems.

An amateur radio station can be set up almost anywhere in minutes. Hams can quickly raise a wire antenna in a tree or on a mast, connect it to a radio and power source, and communicate effectively with others.

ANALYSIS

We believe ARES is an important backup strategy for hospitals which provide mission-critical services especially during emergencies. Each hospital operates its own Command Center which manages the incident for that hospital using Hospital Incident Command System (HICS). The amateur radio operators assigned to a hospital provide communications support to the Hospital Command Center (HCC) and keep it connected to the other hospitals, emergency field operators, and in some cases the States Governor's office and CDC.

NEXT STEPS

Contact us to learn how to implement an ARES emergency communications backup strategy.