

# WCF ARES® Communicator

## Any Support Function in a Storm

August 2025

Fellow ARES® Members,

Many of us radio amateurs feel our time on the airwaves is an end in itself. We rag chew, participate in DXing, contest, etc. because we find enjoyment and satisfaction operating our radio equipment and having fellowship with other hams. For most of us, that's what drew us to the hobby and lead us to invest in our stations.

On the other hand, those of us who participated in public service recognize that the agencies we support have specific missions they perform. Radio communications are a component of completing those missions. As public service operators, we have a responsibility to understand our sponsoring agencies' missions. Within the Emergency Management Community, we have developed a set of designators, known as Emergency Support Functions or ESFs that help us categorize missions performed in support of our whole community. Here is a table of the ESFs we recognize here in Florida (see <https://www.floridadisaster.org/ser1/esf/>):

Emergency Support Functions	
ESF #1 Transportation	ESF #11 Food and Water
ESF #2 Communications	ESF #12 Energy
ESF #3 Public Works	ESF #13 Military Support
ESF #4 Firefighting	ESF #14 Public Information
ESF #5 Information and Planning	ESF #15 Volunteers and Donations
ESF #6 Mass Cared	ESF #16 Law Enforcement
ESF #7 Resource Support	ESF #17 Animal Protection
ESF #8 Health and Medical	ESF #18 Business, Industry, & Economic Stabilization
ESF #9 Search and Rescue	ESF #19 Fuels
ESF #10 HAZMAT	ESF #20 Cybersecurity

ARES communicators are not expected to be expert in all 20 ESFs, though a passing knowledge of what each area covers will serve you well. As an ARES or AUXCOMM communicator, you should have a thorough understanding of the ESFs supported by your sponsoring agency.

All of us in ARES should have a solid understanding of ESF #2, Communications, since we fall into the communications units when activated. Most communications services during an emergency are provided by commercial communications carriers such as Internet service providers, cellular providers, and public service communications units. Generally, we ARES members augment these services for our supported agencies. Also, we often provide the contingency or emergency communications component when there has been catastrophic disruption of the communications infrastructure.

If your sponsoring agency serves in another ESF, you should learn how communications support their missions. Become familiar with the standard operating procedures for the agency response. Take the time to gain at least an apprentice-level understanding of how that agency goes about its response operations. For example, if your agency supports ESF #11, Food and Water, you should have a solid understanding of how they set up Points of Distribution (PODs) and the logistics of moving the food and water from intake point to the POD, etc. This level of understanding makes you better able to take resource request messages and relay them to recipients effectively.

Remember, to be an effective public service communicator requires continuous learning. A solid understanding of the ESFs your agency supports make you a valuable member of their team.

Sincerely,

Dave Rockwell, W4PXE

Section Emergency Coordinator

ARRL® West Central Florida Section

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# ARES Field Reports

[Logout](#) David Rockwell, W4PXE, WCF SEC

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## Form 4 - ARES Monthly SEC Report

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**Success!** The following information was submitted by David Rockwell, W4PXE, WCF SEC for **West Central Florida, June, 2025.**

Total number of ARES members:	197
Difference in ARES members from previous month:	N/D
Number of DEC/ECs reporting this month:	7
Total number of DEC/ECs in section:	10
Number of ARES net sessions held:	36
Number of ARES net sessions held with NTS liaison:	18
Number of participants in nets:	596

	Number	Person-Hrs
Exercises this month:	3	83.00
Training events this month:	9	111.00
Public service events this month:	0	0.00
Community service events this month:	0	0.00
Emergency events this month:	0	0.00
SKYWARN events this month:	196	33,383.00
Meetings this month:	11	99.00
Unclassified events this month:	10	91.00

### Call signs of DEC/ECs reporting:

W4PXE, W4PXE

### Activity Details:

CHARLOTTE COUNTY-----  
Nothing significant to report.

DESOTO COUNTY-----

Other than Field Day, not a whole lot happened. About 30 hours total time of ARES involvement

HARDEE COUNTY-----

Conducted five sessions of the Hardee County ARES Net on June 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30. Had a total of 12 check-ins for a total net time of 47 minutes. Total volunteer time of 1.4 hours.

HIGHLANDS COUNTY-----

Participated in local Hurricane expo. as well as Field Day

## MANATEE COUNTY-----

The monthly Membership Meeting was held at the Bible Baptist Church of Bradenton on Tuesday, 06/24/25. There was a tabletop drill conducted prior to AEC outbriefs.  
 The Question of the Month was, "WINLINK Setup for Packet & VARA-FM?"  
 The Feature of the Month was, "Refresher – Activation, Mobilization & Tactical Nets"

EXERCISE: Operation Grazing Herd Drill 14 June, 2025

## POLK COUNTY-----

Two activations for 2 hours.

## SARASOTA COUNTY-----

Field Day 2025, Sarasota had 22 signed in.

## SKYWARN/WX-Alert-----

DATE CHECK-INS RUNTIME (in minutes)

6/3 42 49

6/10 49 50

6/17 54 44

6/24 42 35

In addition to these formal Nets, the onset of the Rainy Season and the weather events that transpire have resulted in on-the-air activity almost daily. During the week of June 22-28, we were engaging in Extended on-air operations on 6/25, 6/26 and 6/28 as the result of severe weather and the issuance of Severe Thunderstorm Warnings, Flood Advisories and Special Marine Warnings. Numerous information submissions were made to the NWS via NWSChat, particularly on 6/25 and 6/28. These submissions included spotter reports, wind and rainfall reports and ancillary information related to the storm events.

Resulted in 33,286 person hours for SKYWARN.

## Official Emergency Stations-----

W4MDD, Hardee County. nothing significant to report.

KR4X, Hillsborough County, checked in 4 times to the CGCWOA CW Net on 14.052 MHz  
 checked in 3 times to the WCF ARES EC/OES Net on 3.940 MHz  
 checked in 3 times to the SFL ARES Net on 3.940 MHz  
 total of 10 hours no miles driven

KO4IHP, Sarasota County, nothing significant to report.

KM4WXX, Sarasota County, nothing significant to report.

W4OEP, Manatee County, in addition to my activities as the Manatee County Emergency Coordinator (submitted under separate (cover), I also have the following activities to report:

- 1) As the chair of the Manatee County CERT Coalition Communications Working Group, I attended the quarterly CERT Coalition Meeting in the EOC on 6/12/2025.
- 2) I was an invited speaker and observer for the Trailer Estates CERT Basic Training Capstone Drill and Graduation Ceremony held on 6/19/2025
- 3) As the SHARES registered Station Operator for Manatee County Emergency Management, I attended the monthly SHARES Working Group Meeting via Zoom on 6/27/2025.
- 4) I am a regular participant on the South Florida Ares Net (SFAN - 3940 kHz at 0745).
- 5) I conduct weekly SHARES Net Training for other credentialed OES and Level 2 appointees in Manatee County including an in-person session in the EOC every 3rd Wednesday of the month.

**Administrative and Other Comments:**

CHARLOTTE COUNTY-----

3 HCA hospitals IN REALISTIC DRILL WITH FULL HOSPITAL STAFF. VERY POSITIVE FEEDBACK.

DESOTO COUNTY-----

None

HARDEE COUNTY-----

Mike Douglas W4MDD and Darrell Davis KT4WX participated in two teams for the ARRL WCF Section Field Day Caravan for a combined total of 21 volunteer hours.

HIGHLANDS COUNTY-----

New radios installed at EOC and tested. Link with SARNET is good.

We will be swapping out radios in go kits and replacing with the ones from radio room so go kits have dual readouts.

We will be doing shelter site checks soon, as well as some work on our repeaters.

MANATEE COUNTY-----

The MAN-8 repeater relocation to a new tower site 0.9 miles due south, was swiftly completed on Tuesday May 27, 2025 with minimal interruption of service. Performance is equal too, if not slightly better than the previous location.

The call for MCESG Board nominations went out on 5/15. No new nominations have come forth and Frank and Brian have agreed to stay in their positions. Steve motioned and Jack seconded that they stay on the Board. The motion carried unanimously.

We completed emptying the Trailer and moved all remaining inventory to the storage unit on 5/28/2025.

There will be No Membership Meeting in July.

POLK COUNTY-----

GMRS still do well. Averaging 30 each week.

Had an article published in the ARES newsletter = Expanding Horizons.

SARASOTA COUNTY-----

None

SEC-----

8 hours administrative time coordinating and preparing monthly reports.

*Send comments or questions about this page to [ARES Support](#).*

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