



ESF-2

Amateur Radio Emergency Service® (ARES)

The Amateur Radio Emergency Service® (ARES) consists of licensed amateurs who have voluntarily registered their qualifications and equipment with their local ARES leadership for public service communications duty when disaster strikes and for other activities between disasters or emergencies.

In Citrus County, admitted members are credentialed volunteers of the Citrus County Sheriff's Office and Emergency Management. Applications for membership may be found at the Citrus County Sheriff's Office website on the Emergency Management webpage at: <https://www.sheriffcitrus.org>. The application may be submitted along with application (same form) to the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) for licensed amateur radio operators that wish to participate in both programs.

Licensed amateur radio operators, regardless of membership in the ARRL or any other similar organization, are eligible to apply for membership in ARES.

Training may be required or desired to participate in ARES at **advanced levels**, such as responding to other areas during disasters, however local responders will be offered **training and orientation after admission**. Local assignments will be available based on the level of training completed.

Training may include: radio use; station assembly and configuration; radio network participation; message handling; incident command systems; the emergency management system; weather recognition and reporting; digital radio modes; and others. Many courses are offered on-line and are available on the website for the American Radio Relay League, arrl.net. Some training may be held with or at EOC, ARRL Conventions, local clubs, or in other venues. Local training is designed to be enjoyable and low-key, to the extent practical. It will often be in a presentation format, as part of an exercise, or as part

of radio events such as the annual ARRL Field Day. Much of what we do we learn-by-doing!

Because ARES is an Amateur Radio program, only licensed radio amateurs are eligible for full membership. The possession of emergency-powered equipment is desirable but is not a requirement for membership.

ARES presentations and discussions may be included from time to time at the Citrus County Amateur Radio Club monthly meetings on the third Monday of the month at 7 pm at the Citrus County Emergency Operations Center, 3549 Sanders Way, Lecanto and other times, as needed. Visitors and guests are cordially welcomed.

We also meet 'on the air' weekly on Wednesday nights at 7:30 pm at 146.775 MHz.

In summary, the Citrus County ARES is an ARRL-sponsored volunteer group serving the Citrus County Sheriff's Office under ESF-2.

(About ESF-2 see: <https://www.floridadisaster.org/sert/esf/>)

Designated amateur radio operators staff a radio room at EOC during activations to maintain contact with other operators, agencies, and facilities. We typically assign available volunteer amateur radio operators to county emergency shelters and/or other key facilities to ensure constant contact with the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) when needed during storms, emergencies, or evacuations. ARES often participates in emergency drills and exercises along with EOC and public agencies for training, evaluation, and improved preparation.

Amateur radio may also serve various public service groups who may need a temporary communications network to support non-profit events and other non-emergency activities. Please come and show us your stuff!

You can find more information at www.arrl-nfl.org, www.arrl.org/public-service and www.citrusham.org. The Citrus County ARES is a 501C3 non-profit corporation. Ver 2.0 05/18/23