

## Amateur Radio Emergency Services, Hamilton County

### Emergency Operating Guidelines

### Situation Awareness Levels (SAL)

#### Situation Awareness

Emergency situations frequently have advance notice, but events can happen suddenly. Pay attention to local and regional news on a regular basis. When no activations are anticipated HamCo ARES does not operate under a SAL.

When you hear of a potential incident or sudden emergency, monitor your email and text accounts for possible SAL updates. Also, monitor local Amateur Radio repeaters (see ARES Frequency List). The 145.190 1R ESS repeater is the default primary repeater during Standby and Activation modes. When normal means of receiving alerts are not available (text, email, phone), monitor the 145.190 1R ESS repeater. If that repeater is down, monitor the 145.190 repeater output simplex frequency with PL 123 (1S ESS in frequency plan).

ARES operations generally escalate through these levels, but unanticipated emergencies may start at Levels 2 or 3. The HamCo ARES Administration or ARES Ohio Section may adjust the current SAL as needed. Served Agency approval is not required.

Do not self-deploy as an ARES member to any incident without prior instruction.

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#### **Level 1 – Standby Notification / Increased Readiness. Activation could occur within 48 hours.**

- Increase your monitoring frequency of emails, texts, and local resources for related information. Review the ARES Frequency List.
- Review/prepare your response equipment/supplies (see Response Kit List - pending).
- Prepare your household as needed.

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#### **Level 2 – Partial Activation / Public Service Event in Progress. An Incident may be imminent.**

- Notification of a Level 2 SAL activation should include instructions specific to the incident or instructions on how to obtain them.
- A tactical NET may be activated.
- A staging NET may be activated.
- A SkyWARN or Weather Spotting NET may be activated.
- Refer to procedures for specific types of incidents such as a weather emergency, CFD comms are down, and others (as of March 2023 some procedures are still pending).
- Ensure the safety of your household before leaving them.
- This level may include routine support for public service events.

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#### **Level 3 – Emergency or Full Activation**

- An emergency incident has occurred. This may be an anticipated or a sudden emergency incident.
- Level 3 contains the elements of Levels 1 & 2 listed above as appropriate.
- Not all available members may be activated initially if a long-term incident is anticipated and work periods are developed.
- Refer to procedures for specific types of incidents such as a weather emergency, CFD comms are down, and others (as of Jan 2023 some procedures are still pending).
- During a sudden emergency specific details may not be immediately available. Flexibility is encouraged and needed.
- Be aware of potential NIMS / ICS training requirements. Have copies of certificates.
- Monitor for travel restrictions or other government announcements that may impact your response.
- Ensure the safety of your household before leaving them.