

Don't Wait. Make your Emergency Plan today!

The month of September has been declared "National Preparedness Month" by FEMA. The U.S. government is using this campaign to prepare individuals, families and communities for disasters and other emergencies.

Each week in September has its own focus:

Week 1 (August 28 – Sept 3): Kickoff to National Preparedness Month

Week 2 (September 4 – 10): Preparing Family and Friends

Week 3 (September 11 – 17): Preparing Through Service

Week 4 (September 18 – 24): Individual Preparedness

Week 5 (September 25 – 30): Lead up to National PreparAthon! Day

We are focusing on week three in this article.

There are many ways a person can volunteer to help prepare themselves, their family and their community for emergencies. A few of these opportunities can be found through: the American Red Cross, CERT (Community Emergency Response Teams), Salvation Army, local church functions and a local Ham Radio Club. Yes, a local Ham Radio Club!

Ham radio clubs are comprised of Federal Communications Commission (FCC) licensed radio operators (officially known as Amateur Radio Operators). These clubs are found throughout the United States and the world. The American Radio Relay League© (ARRL©) is the organization which oversees Amateur Radio. More to the point of this article, ARRL© is also the parent organization to Amateur Radio Emergency Service© (ARES©).

Although many of you have heard or have taken part in ham radio, I'm sure many of you probably have never heard of ARES©. It is a nationwide volunteer service which is charged with providing services to every County Emergency Manager in the United States as well as to other served agencies, such as the American Red Cross, Boy Scouts of America, Citizen Corps, Civil Air Patrol, FEMA, Salvation Army, National Weather Service, and many others.

We, in Stanly County ARES©, are proud that we supply our own equipment, time and talents to help where we are needed. This may include local charity runs and bike races or participating in disaster scenarios such as dam breaks and nuclear power plant leaks, etc. These events help us keep our communications at a professional level so when called to help backup our county's Emergency Professionals in a disaster, we will be ready to serve effectively.

If you wish to "prepare through service", as FEMA recommends, please check us out the Stanly County Amateur Radio Club.

You can find more information about "Preparing Through Service" at www.ready.gov/september

For information on Amateur radio you can find it at www.arrl.org

National ARES information can be found at www.arrl.org/public-service

For Stanly County Amateur Radio Club Information, please see www.K4OGB.org

Stanly County Amateur Club Facebook see <https://www.facebook.com/Stanly-County-Amateur-Radio-Club-K4OGB-139299776081904/>

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