

## Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES)

**Amateur radio**, often called ham radio, is both a hobby and a service in which participants, called "hams," use various types of radio communications equipment to supply primary or back-up services of the county when regular means are disrupted or over-taxed.

Amateur radio operators enjoy personal (and often worldwide) wireless communications with each other and are able to support their communities with emergency and disaster communications if necessary, while increasing their personal knowledge of electronics and radio theory. An estimated six million people throughout the world are regularly involved with amateur radio.

The Robeson County Amateur Radio Society is drawn exclusively from the active membership of the Amateur Radio Emergency Services and consists of well trained operators, many of whom have already proven their ability in the face of emergencies and disasters. These men and women are constantly improving their knowledge and abilities through training exercise and simulated emergency tests.

RCARS is a volunteer radio communications service available to federal, state, county and local governments. The term "amateur" reflects the principle that Amateur Radio and its skilled operators are committed to helping communities without financial compensation. What these men and women do to get messages through in the aftermath of a disaster is done freely out of a desire to serve. These operators are the means of communication of last resort. If all else fails the Amateur Radio Operators get the job done.

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