

North Shore ARES Notification #4 - Nor'easter / Ice Storm 12/11-12/12/08

OVERVIEW - Updated

North Shore ARES remains at full activation status by KB1KQW and KA1NCF effective Saturday afternoon at 18:00 due to ongoing ARES-MAT deployments to the Gardner area. Although the situation continues to improve as time goes on, several power outages remain (140,000 in Massachusetts as of 5pm Sunday) and shelters continue to serve displaced residents and this is expected to continue now potentially through Tuesday morning (perhaps longer).

Conditions also continue to improve for those residents in Essex county who were impacted slightly less than other parts of the state, however there remains several displaced residents in those areas as well. States of emergency do continue for Massachusetts and New Hampshire.

We will continue to coordinate a resource net now through Monday and make call ups for availability at the top of each hour. North Shore ARES Net Controls will continue to monitor for any instances of EMERGENCY or PRIORITY traffic that may arise in addition to the resource net until the conclusion of the activation. Remember the repeater is open for business and we do not have any plans to host an activated net on the repeater, however please keep your transmissions short in case anyone needs to make contact with North Shore ARES.

A web page has been created at www.nsradio.org with current information regarding the activation.

The rest of Eastern Massachusetts ARES remains on stand-by status effective through Monday evening and this time frame could potentially be extended again. Please see ares.ema.arrl.org for further information on that as well as through messages issued to this e-mail list.

TIMEFRAME OF ACTIVATION / FREQUENCIES - Updated

North Shore ARES remains active is fully active at this time and lasting now through Tuesday morning - subject to change. A resource net is taking place on the 145.470 Danvers repeater at the top of every hour from 08:00 until 23:00 and will take place through Monday at 23:00. The 442.800 Danvers Repeater may be used as an alternate, and the Salem repeater may also be required should the Danvers sites be unavailable.

Deployment instructions will only be provided by e-mail if additional deployment becomes necessary. Please DO NOT SELF DEPLOY and do not deploy without this written message.

As soon as we are aware that Gardner has full control over their recovery and amateur radio support is no longer needed, we will scale back our operation to a stand-by mode in the event further request are needed.

Operations in Gardner have been taking place on simplex due to the power outages to the local repeater. It is noted that as of 17:00 the Gardner repeater

received generator power and is now operational to handle operations traffic. They truly appreciate the efforts we have been able to provide.

Please continue provide pictures of storm damage and recovery operations through email at pics@nsradio.org.

STORM / EVENT INFORMATION

The NWS-Taunton and NWS-Gray Local Storm Reports and Public Information Statements are available at www.weather.gov/boston or www.weather.gov/gray. These reports will provide you with just a snapshot of the damage experienced.

FEMA has requested pictures of the damage. Please send pictures to pics@nsradio.org when able to do so.

AGENCY SUPPORT - Updated

ARES-MAT support has been requested and continues to be provided into portions of Northern Worcester County, including the city of Gardner for communications between shelters and their police station EOC. While there has not been much in the way of new requests, other locations may require support as well and we remain on stand-by for potential needs. Worcester has used ARES support provided by Worcester County ARES. Other communities were using ARES support as well throughout the Commonwealth and those requests were handled by other local ARES teams.

Very limited support was provided to the Massachusetts State EOC in support of what is known as ESF-2 (Emergency Support Function #2 is communications assistance) both on Saturday and Sunday.

Five operators were placed into deployment mode on Sunday including one to the State EOC and Four to the Gardner operation (two being from Franklin County ARES). A total of ten operators were deployed on Sunday, with one to the State EOC, five to Gardner during the 8am to 8pm day shift, and four to Gardner to cover the overnight shift (with three from South Shore ARES). An additional five operators are being deployed from Franklin County ARES to cover the day shift on Monday. If you have any pictures of the recovery operation please e-mail them to pics@nsradio.org.

We need to cover shifts in Gardner from 4:00pm Monday through 8:00am Tuesday morning and again this may change in the near future.

At this time, we have not been contacted by Red Cross chapter officials either from Massachusetts Bay or Northeast Massachusetts.

Support is expected to continue through Tuesday morning and does have the potential to last through Tuesday daytime hours if conditions do not improve in the affected areas. Please continue to monitor your email and the Danvers Repeater for further updates as they become available.

Deployment instructions will only be provided by e-mail if additional deployment becomes necessary.

REQUEST FOR AVAILABILITY - Updated

We continue to seek available stations to assist with various recovery operations currently in progress. Some of these operations may include mobile operations, base operations, net control stations, and field ARES opportunities, which will be refined in the near future.

Note: please let us know if you are available FROM MONDAY AFTERNOON THROUGH TUESDAY, along with specific times and means to contact you. Shifts need to be covered from 4pm Monday through 8am Tuesday and this may be extended. Remember, please **DO NOT SELF DEPLOY!** It is just as high an honor to submit your readiness as it is to work in the field.

If deployed, you will need a mobile radio, power supply, antenna, coax, microphone, and an HT for backup communications. Please also have backup and emergency power considerations, as there may or may not be power where deployment takes place. As always, please make sure your personal needs are taken care of as well.

Please send your availability to ares@nsradio.org or report to the 47 repeater and we will add you to the list. I would like to have everyone's availability coordinated ASAP, since we are currently in an activated mode.

CALL TO ACTION

As the recovery operation continues to take place, we remain in need of the following:

ARES-MAT Assistance
Shelter operations
Net Control Volunteers
Pictures of storm damage as requested by FEMA (VERY important - send to pics @ nsradio.org)
Any Red Cross requests for assistance
Other emergency communications duties as requested

Please continue to send your availability to ares@nsradio.org or check in with the ARES representative on the 145.47 Danvers repeater. Resource call-ups continue at the top of every hour until further notice.

SUMMARY

- * North Shore ARES is currently in FULL ACTIVATION mode for ARES-MAT support to affected areas.
- * Pictures of damage or coastal flooding are requested by FEMA from this event, please send to pics@nsradio.org

* The next update to this message will be Monday evening, time and information permitting.

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