

North Shore ARES Notification #2A - Nor'easter / Ice Storm 12/11-12/12/08

OVERVIEW

*****UPDATE*****

We continue to compile availability now for potential ARES-MAT support now to Gardner and/or Leominster. Both communities are in need of support as of 11:00 and we are working towards an operator list. Further details will be announced as they are received and we are monitoring the 145.47 Danvers repeater - you can get further instructions there as well.

A full update will be issued this evening. Remainder below unchanged.

*****END OF UPDATE*****

North Shore ARES has been placed on stand-by status by KB1KQW and KA1NCF effective Friday afternoon, December 12th at 12:30pm. Power restoration still has the potential to take several days and is not expected until Monday at the earliest.

We have heard about entire communities in Massachusetts New Hampshire without power in central and western MA into Northeast MA, countless trees and tree limbs down, and roads impassable. Several local states of emergency are currently in effect in Northern Essex / Middlesex counties and points west. States of Emergency remain in effect for all of Massachusetts and New Hampshire.

Several hams have checked in to the 145.47 repeater with either a loss of electrical or phone service or in some cases total outages to their residence. Please do your best to keep transmissions short as we may be their only link to provide assistance in the event of an emergency situation. North Shore ARES Net Controls are monitoring for any instances of EMERGENCY or PRIORITY traffic that may arise.

The rest of Eastern Massachusetts ARES has been placed on stand-by status effective immediately through Sunday evening as well. 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

North Shore ARES remains active in stand-by mode as of Friday morning, December 12th, at 12:30 lasting through Sunday evening - subject to change. All operations will continue to take place on the 145.470 Danvers repeater, and the 442.800 Danvers Repeater as an alternate. The Salem repeater may also be required should the Danvers sites be unavailable.

Simplex communications could take place on the output of the 145.47 Danvers repeater in the event of repeater failure.

Please continue to report damage and updates on your community through the 145.47 Repeater and provide pictures as necessary.

ARES stand-by mode is to alert Amateurs within ARES that a mobilization is possible on a wide-scale and that some localized mobilizations are taking place in isolated areas. It means to take a look at your Go-Kit and have batteries and equipment ready to go and charged up and take care of any requirements at home in case a mobilization is required and you can participate. Do NOT self-deploy. Wait for guidance from leadership for any deployment.

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.

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AGENCY SUPPORT

The most likely support may be in the form of ARES-MAT assistance should significant damage occur. This situation will be monitored closely by the North Shore ARES Leadership.

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

Amesbury Emergency Management has called in all their communications staff for possible evacuations of locations without power but support of their operations has not been requested. Several shelters are open across the region.

WE STILL HAVE NOT YET RECEIVED ANY REQUESTS FOR SUPPORT, HOWEVER WE NEED TO BE READY IF REQUESTS ARRIVE. Requests may not come in for a few days as progress is made with regards to clearing the roads.

REQUEST FOR AVAILABILITY

We are seeking available stations to assist with various operations that may arise during the storm. 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. Please let us know if you are available through

the weekend, along with specific times and means to contact you. 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.

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, if possible, so that we are ready to go.

As of this update, we have received availability from: / KB1KQW / KA1NCF / KX1KTY / KB1OHZ / KB1MWC / KB1LYJ / KB1LPW / NG1Z /

Again, if you are not on this list and have availability, please let us know ASAP so we are prepared in the event of an activation.

CALL TO ACTION

Remember, we are not specifically calling stations into action, other than the need for availability. As we continue to work through this storm...we are in need of the following items:

Net Control Volunteers

Pictures of storm damage as requested by FEMA (VERY important - send to pics @ nsradio.org)

Possible shelter operations

Possible ARES-MAT Assistance

Any Red Cross requests for assistance

Other emergency communications duties as requested

Please send your availability to ares@nsradio.org or check in with the SKYWARN or ARES representative on the 145.47 Danvers repeater.

SUMMARY

* North Shore ARES remains on stand-by activation at this time through Sunday evening in the event ARES-MAT or other ARES support is requested.

* Pictures of damage or coastal flooding are requested by FEMA from this event, please send to pics@nsradio.org

* This message will be updated some time later Saturday evening, time and information permitting

JRP/ENH

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