

North Shore ARES Notification #5 - 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. The good news to report is as of 23:00 on Monday the power outage count in Massachusetts is down to approximately 85,000 and progress continues to be made. However shelters continue to serve displaced residents and this is expected to continue now potentially through Wednesday or Thursday morning (perhaps longer). States of emergency do continue for Massachusetts and New Hampshire.

We continue to coordinate a resource net scheduled through Tuesday 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.

It is anticipated that once North Shore ARES can secure the Gardner support operation we will return to a stand-by status in the event further action is requested, and this stand-by activation could last through Friday evening.

The rest of Eastern Massachusetts ARES remains on stand-by status effective through Wednesday 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 Wednesday 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. Please note this stand-by activation is likely to last through Friday evening.

Since the Gardner repeater has received commercial power it has remained as the primary operations frequency for this activation. Operations in Gardner have also been taking place on simplex as a secondary frequency. It has been noted several times that 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 and continues through this week as provided by other ARES districts.

Five operators from Franklin County ARES were deployed through North Shore ARES to assist with the Gardner operation on Monday. An additional operator from North Shore ARES was deployed around noon-time to assist with additional duties throughout the day including communications with the National Grid command vehicle and the police station. The local hospital lost all incoming phone service for most of the day and Amateur Radio served as the ONLY link between the EOC and the hospital...Kudos! As of 20:00 on Monday, Three relief operators were deployed to Gardner including one from Rhode Island ARES, one from Middlesex County, and one from North Shore ARES. A fourth operator remains on scene from earlier today to assist bringing our overnight staff count to four. Our total number of deployed operators as of this update is 19 which includes both Gardner and SEOC support.

We are in need of the following for Tuesday into Wednesday:

- Five (5) operators from 11am to 8pm Tuesday.

- Operators on Stand-by status after 8pm Tuesday for additional assignments that may arise

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 and does have the potential to last through the middle part of the week 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.

The following additional ARES groups remain active in support of this incident: South Shore ARES, Worcester County ARES, Franklin County ARES, Rhode Island ARES, Connecticut District 5 ARES, and others that I may not be aware of as well.

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

Remember, if you have any pictures of the recovery operation please e-mail them to pics@nsradio.org.

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 TUESDAY THROUGH WEDNESDAY, along with specific times and means to contact you. Shifts need to be covered from 11am Tuesday possibly through 8pm Tuesday and this may be extended once again. 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 Tuesday evening, time and information permitting.

Please forward this message on to any interested parties that may be able to provide support.

JRP/ENH

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