

North Shore ARES Notification #6 - Nor'easter / Ice Storm 12/11-12/12/08

OVERVIEW - Updated

The operation in Gardner was secured today at 12:32 and no further requests for support have come in over the day on Tuesday. Therefore, since we are currently no longer supporting any active operations, North Shore ARES will be placed back on stand-by activation status by KB1KQW and KA1NCF effective 00:00 on Wednesday. The power outage count continues to drop and as of 23:00 Tuesday was reported to be around 50,000.

Some shelters continue to serve displaced residents this may continue through the rest of the week. States of emergency continue for Massachusetts and New Hampshire. It is possible that some locations may experience a "dark Christmas" due to the numerous power outages.

The resource nets will continue on a more relaxed basis through at least the next two days in the event that further resources are required for deployment. These nets will take place on both Wednesday and Thursday at 9:00, 13:00, 17:00, and 21:00. 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 through conclusion of the activation.

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

We anticipate on remaining in stand-by status through Sunday, December 21st as the weather forecast anticipates one or two rounds of wintry precipitation that may exacerbate the issues at hand, but this remains to be seen at this point in time.

The rest of Eastern Massachusetts ARES remains on stand-by status now effective through Sunday evening and is subject to review over the next few days, weather and resource permitting. 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 has returned to stand-by status effective 00:00 Wednesday and this is expected to last through Sunday evening. A resource net is taking place on the 145.470 Danvers repeater four times during the day at 09:00, 13:00, 17:00, and 21:00 to check for potential availability. The 442.800 Danvers Repeater may be used as an alternate, and the Salem repeater may also be utilized 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. We anticipate on remaining in an ARES Stand-by mode through Sunday, however this is subject to review over the next few days.

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

STORM / EVENT INFORMATION - Updated

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.

The forecast calls for additional wintry precipitation over the course of the next few days. Please continue to monitor National Weather Service forecasts and be tuned into any further activations that may be required either for ARES or SKYWARN.

If you have any photos of the damage or recovery operation, please forward them to pics@nsradio.org.

AGENCY SUPPORT - Updated

Operations in Gardner were secured at 12:32 on Tuesday when all shelters and support operations were closed down. Working overnight was Bill-KB1G from Rhode Island ARES (until approximately midnight) and David-KB1OCL who worked until the morning hours. Operations were sustained from the previous night shift by Marek-KB1NCG and Paul-KB1PWC who remained through the night until closing.

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 again on Tuesday night as provided by Lou-N1UEC. RACES is expected to remain active through at least Thursday.

No further requests for support were received on Tuesday for operations on Tuesday or Wednesday. At this time, we have not been contacted by Red Cross chapter officials for damage assessment operations.

While imminent support is not likely, we will still continue to collect availability for any potential operations that may arise. 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.

Special thanks to the following additional ARES groups who provided additional resources: South Shore ARES, Worcester County ARES, Franklin County ARES, Rhode Island ARES, Connecticut District 5 ARES, and others that I may have neglected to mention.

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

REQUEST FOR AVAILABILITY - Updated

While we have returned to stand-by mode, we are still collecting a list of resources in case additional deployments are required. Please let us know if you are available through Sunday evening, 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.

CALL TO ACTION

As the recovery operation continues to take place, we remain in need of the following for potential operations that may occur later this week:

Possible ARES-MAT Assistance
Possible Damage assessment operations
Shelter operations
Net Control Volunteers
Pictures of storm damage and recovery 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 will take place on Wednesday and Thursday at 09:00, 13:00, 17:00, and 21:00.

SUMMARY

- * North Shore ARES has returned to stand-by mode in the event further requests for assistance are required.
- * Pictures of damage or the recovery operation are requested by FEMA from this event, please send to pics@nsradio.org
- * The next update to this message will be Wednesday evening, time and information permitting. This will be the final forward to the "nsraemalists" yahoo group.

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

JRP/ENH

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