

**ARES/RACES Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Activation Level  
Definitions for the Alexander County ARES/RACES.**

The following Activation Level definitions will allow for a structured unified response to emergency situations for Alexander County and the State of North Carolina, Dept. of Emergency Management (NCEM <http://www.dem.dcc.state.nc.us/index2.htm>), while providing support for civilian agency activities during emergency situations. This plan is modeled on the NCEM Emergency Operations Plan. It is not necessary for activation levels to occur sequentially, increasing or decreasing levels. It is the responsibility of the EC's to coordinate with NCEM and apply the Activation Level necessary to provide support.

**Activation Level 4 - Standby:**

This level of activation is to raise the awareness of ARES/RACES volunteers and to provide advance notice in order for them to prepare for a possible deployment. There is no requirement for a net to be established at level 4. Volunteers should monitor their radios if possible (see frequencies below) and check their level of preparedness. Below are some examples:

Check family members

Check schedule and availability

Check batteries

Check 'Go Kit'

Fill gas tank

Etc.



The ARES/RACES EC's may utilize the following methods to establish ARES/RACES activation in support of NC State EOC emergency communications:

1. Announcement on local repeaters. The main VHF repeater for Alexander County is 147.195 + P1 94.8. In the event 147.195 + P1 94.8 is not available 441.625 + P1 123.0 is the backup. In the event no repeaters are available tune to 147.195 (repeater output) simplex.
2. Announcement on HF 3923 kHz (USB) or 7232 kHz (USB) depending on availability of operators and conditions. (HF liaison)
3. Announcement by phone.
4. Announcement by email.

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A level 4 activation notification message will take the following format:

A Level 4 Stand by Activation has been established by EC (name/call) to support the Alexander County and State EOC at (time and date). All ARES/RACES volunteers are asked to check preparations and listen to 147.195 + (Freq?). I will be passing further information as it becomes available, this is (your call) with nothing further at this time.

#### **Activation Level 3 - Minimal Deployment**

At this level of activation ARES/RACES EC's shall assess the need for volunteers. EC's may contact minimal numbers of ARES/RACES members to gather scheduling information. There is no requirement for a net to be established at level 3, however if the EC's feels a net is required, they may call for Net Control Station (NCS) volunteers. Liaison station support may also be established. If deemed necessary the EC's may conduct equipment testing including possible testing at the EOC. Volunteers should monitor their radios if possible (see frequencies below) and check their level of preparedness.

A level 3 activation notification will take the following format:

A level 3 Minimal Deployment Activation has been established by (EC name) to support the Alexander County and State EOC at (time and date). All ARES/RACES volunteers who are available are asked to standby and be ready for an assignment. All available operators are asked to listen to 147.195 + (Freq?). This is (your call) asking everyone to please stand by for further information.

#### **Activation Level 2 - Moderate Deployment**

At this level of activation at least one ARES/RACES EC/AEC shall be deployed at the EOC. EC's shall start **The Emergency activation roster** for ARES/RACES members to establish a 72 hour schedule. There is a requirement for a net to be established at level 3 and the EC/AEC shall establish a schedule for Net Control Station (NCS) volunteers. Volunteers should monitor their radios (see frequencies above) and be ready to react to calls for service at the EOC or elsewhere. Special instructions shall follow if this is an ARES/RACES activation.

A level 2 activation notification will take the following format:

A Level 2 Moderate Deployment Activation has been established by (EC name) to support the Alexander County and State EOC at (time and date). All ARES/RACES volunteers are asked to be ready for an assignment and listen to 147.195 + (Freq?). The Emergency activation roster has been activated. This is (your call) all stations please stand by for further instructions.

### **Activation Level 1 - Massive Deployment**

At this level of activation EC/AEC schedules are updated to fulfill operator and net control requirements for up to one week. All ARES/RACES resources shall be available to support Alexander County EOC and the NCEM and other served agencies. All nets and sub-nets shall observe strict net protocols until the Activation Level 1 is rescinded.

**A level 1 activation notification will take the following format:**

**A Level 1 Massive Deployment Activation has been established by (EC name/call) to support the Alexander County and State EOC at (time and date). All ARES/RACES volunteers are asked to be ready for an assignment and listen to 147.195 + (Freq?). Please ensure your family is secure before applying for a schedule slot. This is (your call) all stations please stand by for further instructions.**