

## Preparing for a Hurricane and ARES Operations

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### Pre-season – ARES members and leadership

- ✓ Create kit lists for both stay and deploy
- ✓ Develop three family emergency plans: (see FEMA and Red Cross websites for guidance)
  - You operating at home with family
  - Family at home, you deployed
  - Family evacuated, you deployed
- ✓ Create a plan to harden your home against damage, especially in storm-prone areas
  - Make sure you have needed supplies and tools to implement the hardening plan
  - Don't raid storm supplies for other projects
  - Educate family members on the hardening plan, and teach any needed skills
- ✓ Make a home-preparedness list or kit
  - Non-perishable food, bottled water, sanitation supplies
  - Grab-and-go evacuation bags with clothes, contact lists, medications, essentials
- ✓ Test generator or other backup power systems
- ✓ Refresh/top off generator fuel stock
- ✓ Live-test portable stations for all critical functions
  - If using NBEMS or Winlink, test them on-air
  - Load-test rechargeable batteries
- ✓ Make sure printed copies of ARES Operations Plans are up to date

### Pre-storm – ARES members

- ✓ Review emergency plans with family and determine your availability
- ✓ Talk to your EC to determine where you're likely to be needed
- ✓ Check go-kits for completeness, replace out of date supplies
- ✓ Test generator or other backup power systems
- ✓ Check generator fuel supply
- ✓ Load vehicles
- ✓ Fill vehicle fuel tank(s)
- ✓ Consider dropping wire antennas to the ground until the storm passes

### Pre-storm – ARES Leadership

All of the above, plus:

- ✓ Review plans with key served-agency staff – yours and theirs
- ✓ Poll both active and reserve members for possible availability
- ✓ Make tentative assignments – two members per task or site (in case one becomes unavailable)
- ✓ Create tentative 72-hour staffing plan based on above
- ✓ Discuss potential ARESMAT needs with Section staff, ARRL HQ
- ✓ Pre-position equipment at key agency locations
- ✓ Test all permanently-installed agency stations & backup power, locate any spare equipment