

Section 4: What Happens When Called

Topic 17

Equipment Choices for Emergency Communication

Objectives

Welcome to Topic 17.

There is no one “best” set of equipment that will ensure success for every assignment, but the principles outlined in this topic will help you to make intelligent choices.

Student preparation required:

None.

ARRL — ARES® Branded Apparel Standard



There are many articles of ARES-branded clothing on the market. Some is from ARRL itself, but much more is from other manufacturers and sellers with the ARES logo added.

There is a strong need for ARES volunteers to have a uniform look when they are on actual deployments. Other organizations have instituted standards for volunteers that provide identity, support public relations, and comply with new emergency communications standards (the American Red Cross [ARC] is an excellent example of this). ARES volunteers, however, continue to appear in all sorts of garb, are not easily recognized, and may fail to meet the increasing clothing and ID requirements of National Incident Management System (NIMS) applications.

This recommended standard (specifics in following pages) does not affect or change the availability or marketing of ARES-branded clothing in non-deployment uses. It refers only to periods when ARES volunteer personnel are deployed for public service or emergency response situations. The result is easier identification, better recognition of the services that ARES performs by and for the public, more professional and peer acceptance, and an esprit de corps across ARES groups that surpasses localized identities.

Apparel Specifics

Garment Colors

Safety Green (many people call it yellow) with silver reflective tape that meets ANSI Class 2 standards.

Garment Types

Three types to accommodate climate conditions:

1. T-shirts — long- and short-sleeve, 50/50 cotton/poly.
2. Vests — Velcro or zip front, break-away, 100% polyester, solid or mesh.
3. Jacket or coat.

The Backs of Garments

All garments shall be imprinted on the back with 2-inch-tall Arial Black font, black in color, three lines, center justified:

AMATEUR RADIO
EMERGENCY
COMMUNICATIONS

If the size of the vest does not allow for that size font, the next closest Arial Black font size that fits should be used.

Those in a leadership position may add their title (SEC, DIRECTOR, EC, PIO, etc.) below Emergency Communications in not less than 3-inch-tall Serpentine font, black.

The Fronts of Garments

Front left chest shall be imprinted with the ARES logo, no less than 3.5 inches, and black in color. If the vest size is such that it does not allow room for that size logo, the closest size to it that fits there shall be used.

The right chest area of the garment shall be left blank to allow wearer to affix their name/call badge or official ID badge.

Adding Organizational Names to Garments

Local jurisdictions may elect to add their organization name in the either or both of two places:

1. On the front below the ARES logo, Arial Black font, black in color, in not larger than ½-inch lettering.
2. On the back by adding the organization name (such as SUSSEX COUNTY, DELAWARE ARES) above Amateur Radio Emergency Communications with no larger than 1-inch Arial Black font, black in color.

Implementation of Apparel

The current safety apparel items that are being manufactured are ANSI/ISEA 107-2004 Class 2 compliant, a design and performance criteria for vests worn by police officers, firefighters, emergency medical services, and other public safety personnel.

ARES volunteers in deployments, both emergency- and community service-related, will be encouraged to wear outermost garments meeting these standards.

Clubs and other groups are encouraged to make group buys through ARRL, which may provide discounts for such purchases for ARRL-affiliated clubs and groups. Garments available through the ARRL store are described at www.arrl.org/shop/Public-Service/.

ARES members who may note merchants still selling ARES deployment clothing (intended for outerwear while on actual deployment) not meeting these standards are requested to politely inform the merchant of the new standards.