

This document was last updated **10-Jan-2020** and some of this information may be date dependent. When a disaster, like a fire, flood, earthquake, power outage, etc., is imminent or strikes, or an emergency communication need is anticipated, then it's likely a Placer County ARES Resource Net is being set up. This is what we've trained for. Note that the disaster might be located within Placer County, or one of our neighboring counties. We might be the primary ARES team (for Placer) or a mutual aid ARES team to provide help and relief for the counties near us.

Here are some steps you could take:

1. Make sure you, your family and your neighbors are safe first. Turn on your TV or emergency radio (battery powered if you have lost power) to get current news, alerts and weather. Listen to the standard FM band (93.1 in Sacramento) or WX radio (162.55 or 162.4) for alerts and warnings.
2. Turn on your HAM radio and tune to the **W6EK repeater** (145.43 minus offset CTCSS 162.2) and listen ... W6EK might be in use as the ARES Tactical Net or a Resource Net. If it is being used by non-ARES HAMs, then you know the repeater is working fine, just stand-by and listen. A "kerchunk" with your call should tell you if the repeater is functional.
 - a. If you have a life or death emergency, say BREAK-BREAK or EMERGENCY or PRIORITY or URGENT or MAYDAY or SECURITY. This will interrupt others and free the repeater for your use. Others will be listening. *If you hear an emergency call or message, please stand-by and don't interrupt. If you can provide assistance, then do so.*
 - b. If you plan to continue to listen, then announce yourself by saying your call sign and MONITORING, just in case someone is listening.
 - c. To talk with anyone who might be listening on the repeater, say ANY STATION FROM and your call sign and name.
 - d. If you are changing frequencies, say your call sign and CHANGING TO (new frequency), just in case someone is listening and wants to follow you.
 - e. If you are going to be unavailable or are turning your radio off, say your call sign and CLEAR.
 - f. If you hear traffic, but they can't hear you, the repeater may be down and you could be hearing simplex traffic on the repeater output frequency. Try using the repeater output frequency as a simplex channel and begin with high power.
3. Remember that you could be the first one to get on W6EK. Be patient. As the first one, you may become the default NET CONTROL operator, at least until someone else relieves you. If you suspect the W6EK repeater is down or off, or no one can be contacted, then try switching to the **K6IOK repeater** (145.13 minus offset CTCSS 114.8) and try again to make contact. This is the Placer ARES backup repeater. Follow the instructions in step 2 above.
4. Note that simplex is always an option. If you are still unable to make contact using K6IOK, then switch back to the **W6EK output frequency** (145.43) and use it as a simplex channel (no offset or CTCSS). You may want to begin at high power for maximum "reach". Also consider reducing power to save your batteries, if you are able. Continue to listen to this frequency until traffic appears. Periodically check the K6IOK for traffic.
5. Sutter-Roseville Medical Center (SRMC) is one of our key served agencies. In the event of an actual disaster, they understand that Placer ARES will be using the W6EK repeater and may attempt to contact us on that frequency. Sutter Health Emergency Management Systems, located in Sacramento, will use SIMPLEX 146.46, if

activated. Note that some government agencies refer to simplex as “talk around” or “car-to-car” or just “direct”.