

Herbert V. Akerberg Award for Outstanding Service to Emergency Communications

Since 1913, Amateur Radio has played a crucial role in providing reliable communication during emergencies. With the formation of the Amateur Radio Emergency Corps (AREC) in 1935, which later morphed into the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES), has had a huge impact in being able to provide emergency communications for public and private agencies for nearly one hundred years. These dedicated amateur radio operators have responded swiftly to disasters, ensuring that vital information reaches first responders, government and non-government agencies and humanitarian organizations.

The first real test of Amateur Radio in emergencies came in 1913 with the flood of Columbus Ohio. This was the birth of emergency radio. Amid the chaos of the flood in Columbus, 15-year-old Herbert V. Akerberg demonstrated remarkable composure as he operated his ham radio. Despite the overwhelming noise of floodwaters just outside his bedroom window, Herbert began transmitting the urgent "S.O.S. S.O.S." messages across the airwaves. he used his telegraph key to send critical pleas for help: "Send boats." He also communicated, "Supplies will last until about tomorrow.

Wednesday afternoon, March 26, 1913, through to today -- Amateur Radio has played a pivotal role in emergency communications. The ongoing commitment of ARES volunteers continues to make a significant difference during emergencies.

This award is intended to honor those ARES Groups or individuals who have volunteered their time and demonstrated exceptional dedication in providing emergency communication services. Through their extraordinary efforts, these ARES Groups or individuals have made a significant impact in helping their fellow citizens during times of crisis.

Terms Of Reference:

- 1) This award will be available to any registered ARES Group or individual in the United States.
- 2) Nominations for this award can be submitted by any Section Manager; Section Emergency Coordinator; Director, Vice Director, Officers or ARRL Staff.
- 3) All submissions will be made via email to: fieldservices@arrl.org
- 4) Submissions are to be made in text, MS Word or PDF formats only

- 5) In as much detail as possible please describe what the ARES group or individual did.
(include pictures if possible)
- 6) How were they called up (EMA call tree, mayor, sheriff...)
- 7) Who did they work with (name all served agencies or groups served)
- 8) How long were they deployed
- 9) What specific needs were fulfilled (covering while cell service was restored, etc.)
- 10) An ARES Group or individual may receive the award only once in 5 consecutive years
- 11) More than 1 ARES Group or individual may be recognized in any given year
- 12) The award recipient(s) will be publicized within ARES Newsletter / Social Media sites / QST / On The Air
- 13) All submissions will be reviewed by the Emergency Communications & Field Services Committee (EC&FSC) and their decision will be final.