

Manitoba ARES 2022 Spring Flood Report



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Manitoba ARES 2022 Spring Flood Operations can be broken down into two major segments:

- Manitoba ARES
 - Stand-By Communications Support for VE4EMO in MECC
 - Stand-by Winnipeg ARES operators
 - Support from Winnipeg Senior Citizen's Radio Club (WSSRC)
 - IEPC Meetings
- Municipal Operations
 - Winnipeg
 - Other municipalities.

Manitoba Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) has a long history of providing Amateur Radio communications support from VE4EMO in the Manitoba Emergency Coordination Centre (MECC) for Manitoba Emergency Measures Organization (Manitoba EMO) staff.

Initially it was unclear of whether or not municipal ARES operations would be required to support municipalities in the 2022 Spring Flood fight but Manitoba ARES wanted to ensure that there were ARES volunteer resources dedicated to operating Amateur Radio Station VE4EMO in the MECC if necessary.

Manitoba ARES

Stand-By Communication Support for VE4EMO in MECC

Previously a core group of Winnipeg ARES members comprised the VE4EMO "team" – they were knowledgeable about the MECC, had their own individual *WebEOC* passwords, etc. That team shrank due to aging volunteers, volunteers leaving ARES, etc. For possible 2022 Flood Operations the Acting Section Emergency Coordinator for Manitoba ARES polled Winnipeg ARES members* as to their availability for stand-by for VE4EMO if required. Unbeknownst to us, the MECC was being operated virtually and no one was actually in attendance at the MECC (where the VE4EMO station is located). Initially stand-by operators were identified to cover 0800-1900h daily. With the MECC operating virtually, our next concern was, what if a volunteer ARES member on standby for VE4EMO was not able to reach amateur radio repeaters of interest in the Red River Valley due to the configuration or equipment of their home amateur radio station.

* At the time that Winnipeg ARES members were polled as to availability for VE4EMO, it was not known whether rural ARES operators might be engaged with supporting municipal flood operations and most Winnipeg ARES members live in or near Winnipeg, the MECC is in Winnipeg.

Initially Winnipeg ARES member were polled about availability for VE4EMO on 04 APR for the period 08-18 APR. Ultimately, Winnipeg ARES operators were on stand-by for VE4EMO in the MECC for **fifty** (50) **days** from 08 APR to 27 MAY. A list of Winnipeg ARES volunteer operators can be found in Appendix I. The stand-by of Winnipeg ARES operators for VE4EMO was in five (5) phases and spanned ALERT-186 to ALERT-190.

We found out that the MECC was operating virtually 11 APR which is the same day that WSCRC provided us with their support by way of Radio Room # 2 if necessary. WSCRC President Derek Hay VE4HAY and WSCRC Emergency Coordinator Paul Reisdorf VE4AMS facilitated use of WSCRC by a stand-by VE4EMO operator if activated by Manitoba EMO staff if the operator's home station was not adequate. Derek and Paul ensured that one radio in Radio Room # 2 at WSCRC was set up with the repeaters of interest programmed in.

One of our stand-by operators suggested a written SOP for Winnipeg ARES members operating at WSCRC and that is under consideration.

Manitoba ARES has participated in the Interagency Emergency Preparedness Committee (IEPC) for decades. Typically the IEPC meets monthly, with COVID-19 those meetings started to be held virtually on *MS Teams*. The Manitoba ARES SEC is the ARES representative. For 2022 Flood Operations, daily IEPC meetings were held initially for some period of time, then Mon-Fri for a while, then as operations started to wind-down, several times/week to once/week. The ARES Acting SEC identified an alternate early on (who was previously the ARES SEC). Every IEPC meeting during 2022 Spring Flood response was attended by the Acting SEC or his alternate. Notes and slides from IEPC meetings were compiled by the Acting SEC or his alternate and provided to Manitoba ARES leadership (with Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC) Section Manager being copied). Manitoba EMO Situation Reports were provided to ARES leadership and the RAC Section Manager.

The virtual IEPC meetings were vital to maintaining situational awareness.

As of this writing we **do not** have access to whatever emergency management software Manitoba EMO has transitioned to from *WebEOC*.

Municipal Operations

It is not known that any ARES units in Manitoba provided communications support to their municipal governments for 2002 Spring Flooding.

In MAR 2022, representatives of the City of Winnipeg Office of Emergency Management confirmed that there were no plans to utilize Winnipeg ARES resources for 2022 Spring Flooding. As river levels rose that was checked to ensure it was still valid.

In case Winnipeg ARES was requested by the City of Winnipeg to provide communications support for a mass public volunteer sandbag campaign, the Winnipeg ARES Emergency Coordinator secured permission of Winnipeg Amateur Radio Club (WARC) leadership to host flood volunteer registration on their website in a manner similar to what is currently done for Amateur Radio Volunteer registration for the Manitoba Marathon. Then, the individual (Mark Blum VE4MAB) involved with making that registration form "work" was contacted to see if he was willing to work on a slightly different recruitment form – he was. Then, the individual (Dave Stimpson VE4DJS) who looks after the ARES database for Manitoba Marathon volunteers was contacted to see if he would look after a flood volunteer database if required – he was.

Ultimately no mass public volunteer campaign was undertaken by the City of Winnipeg and no municipal operations were done by Winnipeg ARES.

Appendix I

Winnipeg ARES Operators who took at least one stand-by shift for VE4EMO

Name	Call Sign
Dick Maguire	VE4HK
Thomas Blatch	VE4HQ
Garry Frankel	VE4VD
Glen Napady	VE4GWN
Harm Hazeu	VE4HAZ
Mark Havens	VE4MWH
Robert Poirier	VE4RCA
Jeff Dovyak	VE4MBQ