

# ARES DMAP Manual 2010 Cover Letter

Hello fellow ECs,

It is done folks! The ARES District Mutual Aid Program [DMAP] manual is now complete in its first edition.

I will be presenting the [DMAP] manual to everyone at the Ontario ARES meeting in Toronto on October 23rd and making it available to all other ARES Districts for their benefit.

In order for the ARES DMAP within our District to work, it is crucial that you along with your leadership team study this entirely so you all comprehend it completely. Work to understand each facet of it, enough that you and your team are ready to exercise this with neighbouring ARES groups, no matter what the season. If you want outside help when you need it most, you will need to have this set of SOPs down to a science.

Doing so is what will make the District DMAP successful when you or any of your AECs either make the call for outside help, or receive the call for help. The more you exercise the DMAP, the more you will benefit with lessons learned.

At our next ARES District meeting in April 2011, we plan on exercising the DMAP again, now that we have lessons learned from last year. However, you do NOT need to wait till then for you to exercise this first with your group, then with neighbouring ARES groups, both in responding to the outside call for help, and for you to receive the responders coming from outside to help your group to serve your client(s) when overwhelmed, or soon to be overwhelmed.

This DMAP, as many of you may know, is a project that is six years in the making, and may still be improved upon with future lessons learned, or when we get more into the IMS direction over time.

I wish to thank my Assistant District EC, Lance Peterson – VA3LP for his invaluable help in designing the form layouts and putting the set of SOPS into manual form. I wish to thank Ottawa ARES AEC and District Exercise Manager for last April, Mike Kelly – VE3FFK for his invaluable contribution to the ARES DMAP bringing it up another level as it is now. I also wish to thank the ECs for their input and for their support that we (the District) have received over the years. While I'm at it, I also want to thank (previous Ottawa ARES EC) Peter Gamble – VE3BQP for his feedbacks and suggestions after each yearly ARES District meeting, which helped give Lance & I some direction regarding the ARES Mutual Aid Program, a set of SOPs that ALL ARES groups do need.

May the Force be with you,

October 19<sup>th</sup> 2010  
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