

ATTACHMENT K

NH-ARES ID ITEM POLICY

Purpose

This policy serves two purposes. First, to define and regulate the use of the NHARES clothing and other identity items, and second, to establish a voluntary “standard” for member’s appearance at certain official events.

Why we have this policy...

Identity items for volunteer groups can be either an asset or a liability. Used properly, they make it easier for served agency personnel to locate and identify our members in the confusion of an event, and may make *authorized* access to some restricted areas less troublesome. Used improperly, they can give the impression that ARES volunteers are “wanna-be” police, fire, or EMS personnel. This policy is intended to ensure proper use of NHARES identity items, and to build and preserve a “professional” reputation by governing our appearance.

General Appearance

NHARES members should make every effort to maintain a clean and professional appearance at all responses and events. When an official clothing item is not worn for any reason, chose clothing that is tasteful and appropriate. Avoid t-shirts, soiled or torn clothes, sandals, jackets and hats with more than one or two patches on them, or anything with pictures or words on them that are not related to ARES.

NHARES Clothing ID Items

The NHARES clothing is intentionally designed to be low-key, and does not imitate any public safety agency’s regular street uniform. Deviations in the appearance of approved items are *not authorized*, and must be approved in writing by the Section Emergency Coordinator (SEC). Descriptions and purchasing information are listed on official order forms. Members are NOT required to purchase any NHARES ID items, but are encouraged to do so. Members must be familiar with this policy before purchasing official items.

Identity Item Usage

NHARES ID Cards: Only officially issued NHARES picture identity cards will be used. Local cards may be issued by an EC in addition to the state card if additional local information is required. In this case, both cards should be carried.

Clothing: It is appropriate to wear NHARES ID clothing items at the following events:

1. During any NHARES activation.
2. At any NHARES meeting
3. At served agency meetings when officially representing NHARES, when appropriate.
4. During public service events in which NHARES is officially participating.
5. When responding as part of an official ARESMAT to a neighboring Section.
6. When representing NHARES at local club meetings to make a presentation about ARES.
7. For all meetings and events, the NHARES official in charge may opt to encourage, require, or prohibit NHARES clothing, but should communicate this *well in advance* to all potential participants to avoid confusion or embarrassment.
8. Hamfests, club meetings, and similar events to formally or informally promote ARES.
9. In general, where clothing items are to be worn at an official meeting or event, it is more effective if everyone wears them.

Avoid wearing clothing ID items on a regular basis. If they are dirty or worn out, they won’t be available or suitable for wear when you really need them.

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Signs: Magnetic signs containing any reference to ARES or NHARES should only be used for official responses and events of which ARES is a part. Permanent signs should only be placed on vehicles owned and operated by ARES groups or ARES-affiliated clubs.

License Plates: NHARES license plates or half-plates may only be displayed on vehicles with the written permission of the SEC. They must conform to a standard design approved by the SEC.

Prohibited: Use of NHARES identity items for any inappropriate or illegal purpose, including spontaneous use at traffic accidents or other non-communication emergencies in an attempt to gain access or assert authority anywhere NHARES is not officially invited and authorized, is expressly prohibited, and could lead to expulsion from NHARES and possible criminal prosecution by state or local authorities.