Coachella Valley ARES: Emergency Operations Plan

Version 2.0
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Don Stouder, N1GAY, CV EC
Glenn Morrison, WB6RLC CV AEC

ARRL The national association for AMATEUR RADIO

DESERT R.A.T.S
Radio Amateur Transmitting Society
Serving the Greater Coachella Valley
WD6RAT 146.94 - 107.2

Coachella Valley ARES
Emergency Operations Plan

1. CV ARES provides essential auxiliary communications capabilities in any emergency.
2. CV ARES functions according to the Incident Command System (ICS).
3. CV ARES recruits and Trains individually licensed FCC operators.
4. CV ARES is available to assist any agency requesting our services.
5. CV ARES is sponsored by the Desert RATS Amateur Radio Club.

Our goal is to provide volunteer professional communications specialists (Amateur Radio operators) for essential communications during events or periods of national, state or local emergency (declared or undeclared) and special events.

Amateur Radio Emergency Services

- What is ARES?
  - The Amateur Radio Emergency Service® (ARES) consists of licensed amateurs who have voluntarily registered their qualifications and equipment, with their local ARES leadership, for communications duty in the public service in the event of a communications emergency.
  - ARES consists of more than 40,000 licensed amateurs nationwide.

Where does ARES fit?

- ARES moves **information** from affected areas by volunteer members on the ground in the affected area to other members both within and outside the affected area.
- This information is transmitted via local frequencies to other members using HF, VHF/UHF frequencies to move traffic onto the National Traffic System (NTS) and/or to other Governmental and Non-Governmental organizations or simply to other citizens who are prepared to help. This includes local Emergency Operations Centers.
- ARES volunteers are encouraged to monitor their normal net frequencies during times of crisis and be ready to relay information and/or assume the position of net control. Anyone can activate net control; does not require ARES leadership.

Neighbors helping neighbors.

What Information are we Sending and Why?

"Situational Awareness"

- Local information
- Health and status
- Weather
- Status of current events/efforts
- Requesting supplies/relief
- Welfare Traffic

What Resources Do We Have?

- Dedicated Winlink VHF station.
- Active R.A.C.E.S. via RivCo emergency management.
- Active CERT Teams.
- 4 Club Repeaters in 3 locations; multiple valley repeaters.
- Flat topography = simplex.
- Active nets including Analog, Digital, AREDN, Winlink.
- Many members and locations on AREDN network.
- One of the largest Ham clubs in the US with multiple home communications centers (QTH Ham Shacks).
- Satellite Comms including deployable Starlink and Zoleo communicator.

How Do We Activate?

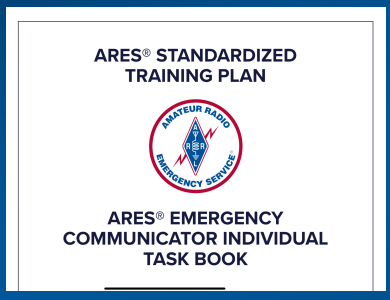
- Incident Happens.
- Email, Text Alerts. (aresdb.com)
- Announce on all DRATS repeaters.
- Open Net on DRATS Main Repeater 146.940 -107.2
  Follow PACE Comms Plan ICS 205
- Take roll and inventory needs and resources.
- Leadership activates ICS.
- Continual updates for situational awareness.
- Respond to situation as appropriate.
  - Use standard service priorities to allocate resources.
  - See Appendix.

Who is In Charge?

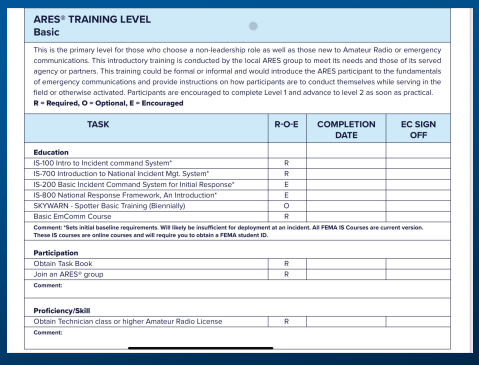
- Coachella Valley Emergency Coordinator appointed by ARRL Orange Section Manager. Assistant Emergency Coordinator appointed by EC.
- All DRATS Net Control Operators are Assistant Emergency Coordinators when needed.
- Any ARES member may activate a Net and assume the role of Net Control until leadership comes up on the air.
- Any ARES member may activate the ICS system and assume the role of Incident Commander, if basic level ICS courses have been completed. Emergency Coordinator will assume this role when he/she comes up on the air.
- ARES members may self activate on the air but they may NEVER self deploy; going out into the field should only happen by specific request and assignment of ARES leadership.

How Do We Train?

- Weekly Nets
- Field Day
- Quarterly Meetings and Drills
- Monthly Newsletter
- ARES Training Task Book


ARES® STANDARDIZED TRAINING PLAN

ARES® EMERGENCY COMMUNICATOR INDIVIDUAL TASK BOOK


ARES® TRAINING LEVEL
Basic

This is the primary level for those who choose a non-leadership role as well as those new to Amateur Radio or emergency communications. This introductory training is conducted by the local ARES group to meet its needs and those of its served agency or partners. This training could be formal or informal and would introduce the ARES participant to the fundamentals of emergency communications and provide instructions on how participants are to conduct themselves while serving in the field or otherwise activated. Participants are encouraged to complete Level 1 and advance to level 2 as soon as practical.

R = Required, O = Optional, E = Encouraged

TASK	R-O-E	COMPLETION DATE	EC SIGN OFF
Education			
IS-100 Intro to Incident command System*	R		
IS-700 Introduction to National Incident Mgt. System*	R		
IS-200 Basic Incident Command System for Initial Response*	E		
IS-800 National Response Framework, An Introduction*	E		
SKYWARN - Spotter Basic Training (Biennially)	O		
Basic EmComm Course	R		
Comment: *Sets initial baseline requirements. Will likely be insufficient for deployment at an incident. All FEMA IS Courses are current version. These IS courses are online courses and will require you to obtain a FEMA student ID.			
Participation			
Obtain Task Book	R		
Join an ARES® group	R		
Comment:			
Proficiency/Skill			
Obtain Technician class or higher Amateur Radio License	R		
Comment:			

APPENDIX

§ 97.403 Safety of life and protection of property.

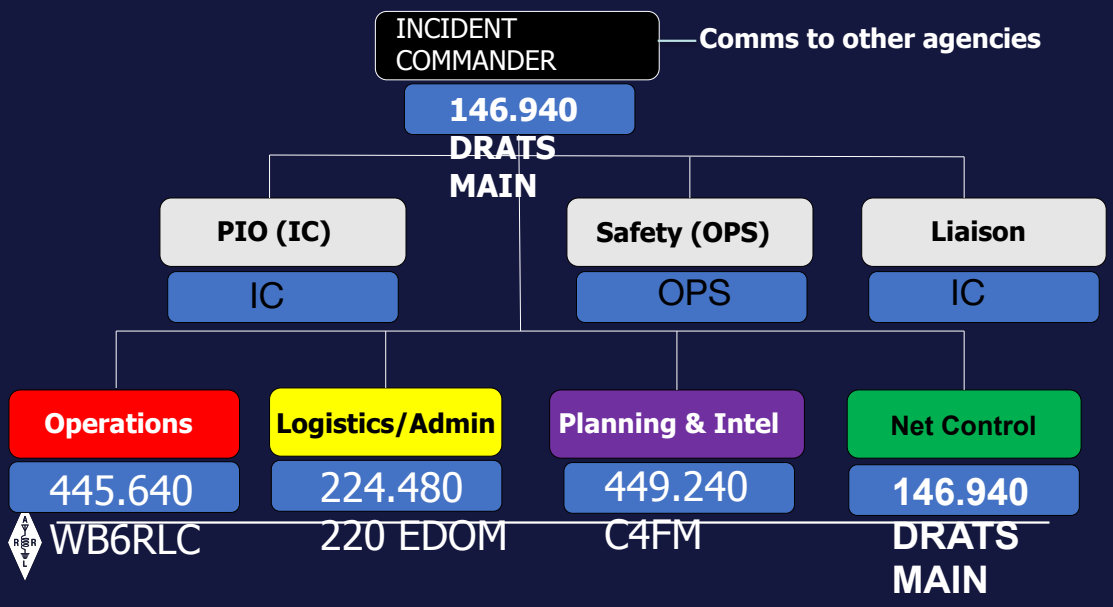
No provision of these rules prevents the use by an amateur station of any means of radio communication at its disposal to provide essential communication needs in connection with the immediate safety of human life and immediate protection of property when normal communication systems are not available.

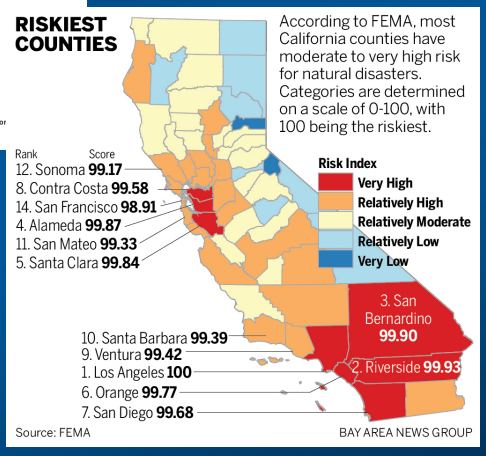
Example: How to Prioritize ARES Resources

ITDRC's Service Priorities

Life Safety	Police/Fire/EMS/Emergency Management Acute Care/Hospital Emergency Rooms Critical Infrastructure Key Resources (CIKR)
Mass Care	Evacuee Feeding / Sheltering Survivor Reunification Medical Facility / Pharmacy Services
Community Recovery	Volunteer & Donations Management Disaster Relief & Resource Centers Continuity of Government/Nonprofit Services
Long Term Recovery	Survivor/Social Service Program Delivery Community & Education Facilities Chamber of Commerce/Small Business Recovery

ICS for CV ARES





High Priority Hazards

- Weather-Wind-Flood
- Earthquake
- Wildfire
- Pandemic

Handy APPS for your Smartphone

Starlink to deploy the unit.

Zello Walkie Talkie APP

Glympse GPS APP

Both Zello and Glympse have private Coachella Valley ARES Channels.

APPS for Situational Awareness
MyShake, Watch Duty, ARC Emergency

eNIFOG, CA iFOG, eAUXFOG
Communications Field Operations Guides

INCIDENT RADIO COMMUNICATIONS PLAN (ICS 205)

1. Incident Name:	2. Date/Time Prepared:	3. Operational Period:
Coachella Valley ARES Communications Plan (P.A.C.E.)	Date: May 4 2025 Time:	Date From: Date To: Time From: Time To:

4. Basic Radio Channel Use:

Zone Grp.	Ch #	Function	Channel Name/Trunked Radio System Talkgroup	Assignment	RX Freq N or W	RX Tone/NAC	TX Freq N or W	TX Tone/NAC	Mode (A, D, or M)	Remarks
		PRIMARY	RATS Edom Hill Repeater	NET CONTROL					Analog	146.940. -107.2
		ALTERNATE	WB6RLC Indio Hills Repeater	TBD					Analog	445.640. -131.8 (Indio) or 107.2 (Edom Hill)
		CONTINGENCY	CAP/SAN J Repeater	TBD					Analog	146.760 -107.2
		EMERGENCY	SIMPLEX	TBD	146.52	None	146.52	None	Analog	
		Command Tac	DigiRATS C4FM Repeater	TBD					A + D	449.240 No PL (01 or 02). Can also use analog PL -131.8
		Operations Tac	WB6RLC Edom Hill + Indio Hills	TBD					Analog	445.640. -131.8 (Indio) or 107.2 (Edom Hill)
		Logistics Tac	RATS Edom Hill 220 Repeater	TBD					Analog	224.480 -110.9
		Winlink Node	Edom Hill	Health and Welfare					Analog	145.630 No PL

5. Special Instructions:

NOTE: A proper PACE Plan must provide at least four (4) different methods to communicate in four (4) different locations. For example, if Edom Hill is undamaged and operating after an incident, then all of our resources there would be available to us.
ADDITIONAL RESOURCES: 1. On Edom Hill, all repeaters have solar or battery back up. We have three (3) repeaters there; 2 are Yaesu analog/digital machines and 1 is a 220 machine. 2. Portable repeater identical to those on Edom Hill. (146.940 -131.8) 3. Deployable STARLINK MINI. 4. Agreements with PAPA System and DARN Network to take their local repeaters off network for our use in an emergency. 5. Zoleo Satellite Texting and Emergency Alert. 6. Multiple digital modes including Winlink, AREDN, FLDIGI, etc.

6. Prepared by (Communications Unit Leader) Name: Don Stouder N1GAY Signature: _____

ICS 205	IAP Page _____	Date/Time: _____