



Cherokee County ARES/AUXCOM/RACES Training Policy & Membership Levels Updated 01/01/2016

From the American Radio Relay League

(ARRL): Amateur Radio Emergency Service®

(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 when disaster strikes.

ARES Membership Requirements

*Every licensed amateur, regardless of membership in ARRL or any other local or national organization is eligible to apply for membership in ARES. **Training may be required or desired to participate fully in ARES. Please inquire at the local level for specific information.** Because ARES is an Amateur Radio program, only licensed radio amateurs are eligible for membership. The possession of emergency-powered equipment is desirable, but is not a requirement for membership.*

How to Get Involved in ARES

*Fill out the **ARES Registration form FSD-98**, and submit it to your local Emergency Coordinator.*

Cherokee County ARES/RACES Training Policy

Our operations must comply with the National Incident Management System (NIMS). We operate under the Incident Command System (ICS) when activated.

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) now requires all volunteers, including Amateur Radio operators to be certificated in at least IS 100, IS 200, IS 700 and IS 800 course material. For non-governmental employees and others without access to classroom instruction, these courses are available as on-line independent-study courses that are free of charge.

THOSE AMATEUR OPERATORS WHO MAY BE DEPLOYED TO EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTERS (EOCs), COMMAND POSTS, PUBLIC SAFETY ANSWER POINTS (911 CENTERS), SHELTERS, PODS OR OTHER POINTS WHERE INTERFACE WITH EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AT ANY LEVEL IS EXPECTED, ARE REQUIRED TO COMPLETE IS 100, IS 200, IS 700, and IS 800.

Several Amateur Radio operators across the country have voiced public concerns regarding having to take this training. This document serves to clarify the policy of Cherokee County ARES®/RACES. No one is

compelled to take these courses. However, any previously registered ARES/RACES volunteers who have not completed the required training will be listed in our internal records as "Level 1" and will not be deployed to any site during any activation or drill without being directly paired with a "Level 2" member for field training purposes. Any operators who "self-deploy" and are not on the registered lists as "Level 2" will not be allowed to participate in activities where certification is required (all activities). ARES/RACES operators who complete the requirements at any time will be updated as "Level 2" in our internal records.

This is not intended to be an affront to any individuals or groups. It is, however, intended to bring our overall organization into compliance with DHS, State and Local EMA requirements.

Mandatory Training

Why?

- Two events have changed the training world: 9/11 and Hurricane Katrina. During recovery efforts for these two events, it was learned that the various agencies and volunteer organizations did not work well together. This training was developed to remedy this situation.
- **The agencies we serve require this training.**
- It's online. It's easy. It takes approximately 45 min to 1 hour per class to complete.
- Federally mandated way for federal, state, and local groups, and also for volunteer groups to understand how to communicate and interact with each other.
- It gives volunteers credibility. First, we know how to talk to the government officials. Second, the fact that we have been trained and know the language gives us credibility when we enter a site.
- Emergency entities that receive federal money to pay for equipment **must** be ICS/NIMS compliant.

Cherokee County ARES/RACES Membership Levels

ARES Communicator - Level 1, (SkyWarn, optional)

- ✓ Amateur Radio License holder
- ✓ Completed Cherokee ARES/RACES Orientation Class (Offered about twice a year)
- ✓ Maintains current and updated ARES FSD-98 form on file (Annual Updates Needed)
- ✓ Approval of Cherokee County ARES Emergency Coordinator (EC)
- ✓ Maintain active membership in good standing with Cherokee County ARES/RACES organization
- ✓ **Maintains minimum radio equipment to communicate:**
- ✓ Portable Hand Held Radio, preferably dual band (2m, 70cm) programmed with current Cherokee County ARES ICS-217 Communications Resource Availability Worksheet TAC frequencies, w/ auxiliary gain type Mag mount or small base station type antenna including coax, connectors and if using, some sort of device to elevate base station type antenna.
- ✓ **Optional;** Completed and Maintains current SkyWarn Spotter certificate

ARES/RACES Communicator - Level 2, Deployable

- ✓ Completed ALL ARES Communicator, Level 1 requirements
- ✓ Completed Cherokee County RACES Registration Form on file
- ✓ Completed IS-100, IS-200, IS-700, AND IS-800 FEMA Courses
- ✓ Completed requirements for and holds current Cherokee County EMA- Amateur Radio ID Badge
- ✓ **Mandatory:** Completed and Maintains current SkyWarn Spotter certificate
- ✓ **Maintains minimum radio equipment to communicate:**
Mobile, Base station (portable) or Radio Go-Box for deployment to include HF capabilities (if so licensed), with necessary coax, connectors and equipment to setup adequate antenna for resources. Highly recommended to have Digital Communications capabilities and training
- ✓ **Maintains minimum Go-Bag resources:**
Supplies ready to deploy for a minimum of 72 hours, to include food, water, meds, battery backup for radios, etc.

ARES/RACES - Level 3 - EC, AEC, and EMA Staff *

- ✓ Completed ALL ARES/RACES Communicator, Level 2, Deployable requirements
- ✓ Completed GEMA G-775 EOC Management and Operations Classroom course
- ✓ Completed Cherokee EMA WebEOC training
- ✓ Completed AUXComm course from DHS-Office of Emergency Communications (OEC)
- ✓ Completed requirements for and holds current Cherokee EMA-Amateur Radio ID Badge w/ Public Safety building door access privileges

**Communicator Level 2 Members may work on Level 3 training, but Level 3 status will only be granted to a member when filling an open AEC or EMA Staff position and with approval of Emergency Coordinator.*

Links:

ARES Registration Form FSD-98: <http://cherokee-ares.org/membership.shtml>

RACES information from the ARRL: <http://cherokee-ares.org/races.shtml>

RACES Registration Form: <http://cherokee-ares.org/documents/Cherokee-County-RACES-Registration.pdf>

FEMA IS Training Website: <http://www.training.fema.gov/IS/crslist.aspx>

Cherokee County ARES/RACES ICS-217 Radio Communications Resource Availability Worksheet: http://cherokee-ares.org/documents/Cherokee_217A-rev_3-18-2014.pdf