

# Public Service Using Amateur Radio

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# Public Service Opportunities

- ARES—Amateur Radio Emergency Service
- RACES—Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service
- CERT—Community Emergency Response Team

# ARES—Amateur Radio Emergency Service

- Usually open before, during, and after an emergency
- Any licensed operator may participate
- Register with local ARRL Emergency Coordinator
- Must follow all applicable Part 97 rules, but not emergency rules as specified in §97.407



# RACES—Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service

- Created in 1952
- Designed to provide a quick and smooth transition to emergency status in the event the President ever needs to silence the regular Amateur Radio Service again when invoking the War Powers Act of 1941.
- Only activated by the state, county or local emergency management authority to operate on their behalf.

# RACES—Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service

- Almost never starts before an emergency
- Is active only during the emergency and during the immediate aftermath if government emergency management offices need communications support
- Normally shut down shortly after the emergency has cleared
- Must follow all specific emergency rules as specified in §97.407

# Fort Worth RACES

- Works as part of the Fort Worth Office of Emergency Management
- Provides radio support for National Weather Service severe weather spotter activations
- Provides radio support for large-scale events such as:
  - Cowtown Marathon
  - Veteran's Day Parade
  - March of Dimes Walk for Babies



# Fort Worth RACES

- In the aftermath of the Mayfest hail storm in May, 1995, RACES also provides weather liaison radio operators for large outdoor gatherings in Fort Worth and Tarrant County
- For each event, RACES members have direct radio contact with the NWS Fort Worth forecast office, either on their own equipment or equipment in the RACES van
- These events include Mayfest and Concerts in the Garden

# Fort Worth RACES



- Members of the RACES program are also enrolled and part of the American Radio Relay League's ARES
- To become a member of RACES, there are several requirements:
  - Be licensed amateur radio operator
  - Complete four online FEMA Emergency Management Institute (EMI) self study courses
  - Attend SKYWARN training provided by the NWS Fort Worth forecast office
  - Complete the online membership form
  - Participate in initial training and monthly training nets (currently the first Monday of each month)



# SKYWARN—National Weather Service



- First started in Fort Worth in 1971
- Trained storm spotters report observations through local or county nets
- [WX5FWD.org](http://WX5FWD.org)
- On Twitter: @wx5fwd, FW Forecast Office: @NWSFortWorth
- Search Twitter: #HWOFWD, #dfwwx, #txwx
- Facebook: @NWSDallasFortWorth



# SKYWARN—National Weather Service



- Look for the Hazardous Weather Outlook on <https://www.weather.gov/fwd/>
- You may also report weather conditions at your location anytime through mPING, a crowdsourcing app for your phone
- mPING information: [NSSL Projects: mPING \(noaa.gov\)](https://www.noaa.gov/projects/mping)



# CERT—Community Emergency Response Team



- An organization of volunteer emergency workers who
  - Have received specific training in basic disaster response skills
  - Agree to supplement existing emergency responders in the event of a major disaster
- Not required to be a licensed radio operator to join CERT
- Complete the same four online FEMA Emergency Management Institute (EMI) self study courses as for RACES

# CERT—Community Emergency Response Team

- CERT training is 20 hours long and includes the following units:
  - Unit 1: Disaster Preparedness
  - Unit 2: Fire Safety
  - Unit 3: Disaster Medical Operations part 1
  - Unit 4: Disaster Medical Operations part 2
  - Unit 5: Light Search and Rescue Operations
  - Unit 6: CERT Organization
  - Unit 7: Disaster Psychology
  - Unit 8: Terrorism and CERT
  - Unit 9: Course Review and Disaster Simulation

# CERT—Community Emergency Response Team

- Established nationally in 1993
- In Arlington, CERT is sponsored by the Fire Department
- CERT membership is required by the Arlington Office of Emergency Management prior to operating the Arlington Emergency Operations Center's radios
- Radios at the EOC are used for severe weather activations and as net control for Arlington's monthly outdoor warning siren tests
- Arlington's EOC station call sign is K5OEM

# CERT—Community Emergency Response Team

- Arlington tests its outdoor warning sirens at 1:00 p.m. on the first Wednesday of each month, weather permitting
- Not required to be a CERT member in order to participate in the siren observations
- Siren nets usually run 30-45 minutes
- Siren nets are great practice opportunities for new radio operators

# Useful Links

- [ARES \(arrl.org\)](http://arrl.org)
- [47 CFR 97.407 - Radio amateur civil emergency service. \(govregs.com\)](http://govregs.com)
- [www.fortworthraces.org](http://www.fortworthraces.org)
- [MyImpactPage - Fort Worth Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service \(RACES\) \(betterimpact.com\)](http://betterimpact.com)
- [SKYWARN \(weather.gov\)](http://weather.gov)
- <https://www.weather.gov/fwd/>
- [Community Emergency Response Team | Ready.gov](http://Ready.gov)
- [Office of Emergency Management - City of Arlington \(arlingtontx.gov\)](http://arlingtontx.gov)