



# Clark County ARES®/RACES

Clark County, Washington USA



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TO: Perspective members

SUBJ: Prospective member information and membership application

ENCL: CCARES/RACES Tri-fold  
CCARES/RACES Application for membership form  
Washington Emergency Worker application form  
Limited Background Investigation form

Hello,

Thank you for your interest in the Clark County ARES®/RACES organization. This letter of introduction will provide you with information as to who we are, the prerequisites for membership, how to apply for membership, and what happens after you join. We hope you will give us consideration as we are always looking for amateur radio operators that are seriously interested in emergency communications.

## Who are we?

Our group is a combined ARES® and RACES organization. All members are registered in both ARES®, sponsored by the American Radio Relay League (ARRL) and RACES under CFR46 Part 97.407 governing the use of FCC licensed Amateur Radio Operators for emergency communications support to government agencies. We operate under the rules and regulations of the Washington State Code (WAC 118-04-080) and those of Clark County.

Less technically speaking, we provide emergency communications for both local government agencies and non-governmental organizations (public and private). We provide services in times of emergencies or disasters when called out by the Clark Regional Emergency Services Agency (CRESA). Operation is governed by emergency plans and agreements. A secondary purpose of ARES is to provide non-emergency, public service communications for county agencies or other qualified organizations at the discretion of ARES officers.

## Our meetings

Our monthly ARES/RACES meeting is at 7pm on the third Monday of the month (except no meeting in December) at the Clark County Public Works facility located at 4700 NE 78<sup>th</sup> St, Building B-1, in Vancouver. Meetings are open to anyone interested in joining the group. We also hold a weekly net each Tuesday evening at 7:00 PM on the 443.925+ MHz (94.8Hz tone) repeater. The net is open for check-in to all amateur radio operators.

All of the information contained in this packet is available on our website, along with additional information and resources for interested ham radio operators. Visit us at <http://www.ccareswa.org/>

## How to apply

- Possess a valid Amateur Radio License issued by the FCC (any class)

Send these to [ae7rp.dan@gmail.com](mailto:ae7rp.dan@gmail.com) (preferred), or print them out and bring them to an ARES meeting:

- Completed CCARES/RACES Membership application
- Completed Clark County Volunteer Emergency Worker application
  - If you already have an emergency worker card, please note the number on your application.
- Completion certificates for the two required FEMA courses. The courses are offered for free online at <https://training.fema.gov/IS/crslist.aspx>
  - [IS-100.b Introduction to Incident Command System](#)
  - [IS-700.a National Incident Management System](#)
- A photo of yourself for your ID card. If you don't have a suitable picture just inquire in person at one of our meetings and we can take one for you.

It is important to know that your membership process is not complete until:

- Your application is approved and processed by the EC/RO
- You have completed of FEMA Courses IS-100 and IS-700
- A successful background check is completed

## After you become a member

Congratulations; you've turned everything in! Once all of the paperwork is processed (generally within a week or two), you will receive:

Your team assignment. The Clark County ARES organization consists of a management team, six geographical teams, and five special-function teams. Additional information about the teams is available on the group website. If you have a preference please make note of it during the application process.

Your Washington State Emergency Worker Card. The EW card is issued by CRESA and contains your Emergency Worker number. When you get your card you will need to sign it and affix a passport style photograph. It is recommended that you have the card with photo laminated. You need to have this identification card with you when participating in official ARES activities (exercises, actual call outs, etc.). It's a good idea to keep your wallet size ham license, which you will also need for ARES activities, with your EW card.

A copy of the CCARES Field Manual/Operating Aid. This is a binder of standard operating practices for the group. It provides a reference for how our group operates when activated. The guide includes various information from how to respond to a call out to current operating frequencies. As your field guide, it will be your responsibility to keep it up to date with the current copies posted digitally. Feel free to add to the guide as you see fit with reference information needed during a deployment.

## **Equipment**

Our standard “uniform” includes an orange high visibility vest and hat. These are available for purchase at a discounted rate at the monthly meetings.

The following notes on radio and associated equipment are very general guidelines only. Before purchasing any equipment, please attend a meeting or two and get a feel for what other operators on your team are using. There is no minimum equipment required to join the group. Chances are good that whatever equipment you already have will be fine, although you may wish to add to it over time.

## ***Radio/antenna***

CCARES makes use of whatever spectrum privileges you have access to, but focus primarily on VHF and UHF. Our primary operational bands are 2m (144MHz) and 70cm (440Mhz), so if purchasing a radio for ARES a dual band radio is a good place to start. We also use the 1.25m (220 MHz) band, but this equipment is more difficult to acquire and is not required. It is possible to get by with a handheld radio, but a good mobile device will give much better performance. Most of our team members end up with both. Note that a mobile radio does not need to be mounted in a vehicle. A 120V power supply works for most applications. A good dual band antenna is also needed. For portable applications, a magnetic mount antenna with a small metal base (think cookie sheet) as a ground plane works nicely.

## ***Emergency power***

Since our operations are likely to happen during times of power interruption, a good source of emergency power is advisable. There are lots of options at various price points for both fixed and portable operation. This is a good topic to discuss with your team leader to help tailor your setup to the most likely situations your group will be called on to respond to. Note: Most of the ARES operators use Anderson “Power Pole” connectors for their power cabling. This allows interconnection with all of your equipment and also use of other operator’s equipment.

Once again, thank you for your interest and I hope to hear from you soon.



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