



As you sign up for Yavapai County ARES/RACES please consider the following:

What is the "Emergency Communications Commitment"?

The idea behind the statement "Amateur Radio is the hobby. Emergency Communication is a commitment." is that so many people will not spend the time to learn emergency communications and when urged to do so will reply with "It's just a hobby." The hobby is Amateur Radio and we expect people to treat the hobby portion as a hobby.

The difference is that when you volunteer for ARES/RACES you need to understand that it is a **commitment**. That means that if it is humanly possible (**NEVER** do anything that would endanger your family and always consider the importance of your job) you will support Training and Emergencies. Does that mean or imply that any one person will support all of these activities? Not at all. It does mean that each person will support as many activities as their other commitments will allow.

This will include checking in to the Monday evening information and training net held weekly on the 147.260 MHz 103.5 pl ARES/RACES repeater located on Mt. Union at 1830 hours or on the 145.290 MHz 127.3 pl ARES/RACES repeater located on Mingus Mountain at 1900 hours. It is on this net that information about upcoming training meetings, events or exercises will be disseminated along with training topics. A good goal to set is to check into at least 75% of all nets and attend 75% of all training meetings, exercises and call outs.

Members will also be required to complete the following FEMA and Emergency Communications courses within 6 months of joining: FEMA IS-100.b -- IS-700.a along with either the ARRL EC-001 Emergency Communications Course or KYHam Emergency Communications Course. Additionally within 1 year of joining you must complete: FEMA IS-200.b and IS-800.b for RACES certification.

We may have the communications equipment and years of operating on the Amateur bands, but is it easily applied to emergency communications? The equipment maybe - but you and me, no. One does not simply walk into an emergency situation unless you have some training and/or experience. We don't just sit down at a transceiver and control a host of other stations passing emergency messages, or go mobile and know what to do or set up an emergency communications system that supports a specific area. And that is why the training program is so essential to the ARES/RACES program.

Give this some thought: ARES/RACES is spread thin, mighty thin, across the nation. You have the equipment and communications skills. They just have to be sharpened so that you can rapidly respond to an emergency situation.

As a group we are making a commitment to the people of Yavapai County to be a well organized, well trained and well equipped Emergency Communications response organization. We can work together to make this happen.

Bud Semon N7CW
Yavapai County ARES/RACES
District Emergency Coordinator/Radio Officer

I have read the above and will do my best to honor the commitment.

Signed _____ Call _____ Date _____