

Background information on the Emergency Operations Center

RACES is an organization of amateur radio operators who volunteer to provide radio communications for State and local governments in times of emergencies. Created in 1952 to serve in civil defense emergencies, RACES provides essential communications and warning links, to supplement State and local government assets during emergencies.

The Federal Communications Commission the FCC , is responsible for the regulation of RACES operations. The Federal Emergency Management Agency FEMA, provides planning guidance, technical assistance, and funding for establishing a RACES organization at the state, **as it is here in Utah**, or local level.

It is conducted by amateurs using their primary station licenses or by existing RACES stations. **In the event the President invokes the War Emergency Powers, Only RACES amateurs officially enrolled in the local civil preparedness group would be limited to certain frequencies, while all other amateur operations would be silenced.**

It is the intent of Cache County Emergency Services to establish, train, and support an aggressive RACES/ARES organization designed to provide and/or supplement essential emergency communications within Cache County, and to supplement the State RACES needs.

Cache County's Emergency representatives in the Sheriff's office and the County Emergency Coordinator met with city council members through out the county to request that HAM radio's be installed in EOC city stations. When approval was given, the Towns supplied 50% of the funds, the Sheriff's office then requested and obtained the other 50% through a Grant necessary to purchase them and members of Cache County ARES installed these radio's.

Now it is up to the amateur radio operators in your town. Do you know where the Emergency Operation Center in your town is? Can you locate the emergency radio in that center? Are you willing to check in on the Tuesday night net to ensure that radio is in working order.

If there is a problem let your city council know every Town needs their functioning Emergency Command Center.

This is clearly a big job but, with the right approach and tools, your command center can do it, successfully saving your Town time, money and aggravation every step of the way. If a disaster occurs, your town will have protected itself, its employees, and residence from harm by assuring continuity of services .

If you have further question or need help with your Town's EOC , the Emergency Coordinator for Cache County is Tyler Griffiths N7UWX.

Assistant Emergency Coordinator's are: Ted McArthur AC7II
Kevin Reeve N7RXE
Bob Wood WA7MXZ