

FCAA – OPS 103

AuxComm / ARES Status and Responsibility

Tonight's training is about our status and responsibilities as volunteers, and also about the administrative structure regarding the Forsyth County AuxComm / ARES Emergency Coordinator and Assistant Emergency Coordinators.

AuxComm / ARES personnel are FCC-licensed Amateur Radio operators who have voluntarily registered their capabilities and equipment for public service communications duty. All Forsyth County AuxComm / ARES personnel are strongly encouraged to complete the NC State required ICS courses and register in the NC State AuxComm data base. In North Carolina this serves as the RACES registry.

Under Federal regulations, Amateur Radio public service communications are furnished without compensation of any kind. All Forsyth County AuxComm / ARES radio operator personnel are federally licensed, receive no remuneration of any kind for their services, and in most cases, provide the equipment utilized at their own expense.

Forsyth County AuxComm / ARES functions under the Forsyth County AuxComm ARES SOP which outlines the procedures for all personnel involved in AuxComm / ARES operations within the county. Forsyth County NC AuxComm / ARES operates all activates, emergency, disaster, training and public service events under the Incident Command System (ICS).

As a Forsyth County AuxComm / ARES volunteer you are working for Forsyth County AuxComm / ARES and operate within the Forsyth County AuxComm / ARES SOP's and FCC regulations. You are not an employee of the served agency. Although we serve and operate strictly within their operational rules and regulations, we are not their employees.

Forsyth County AuxComm / ARES personnel are dispatched to supported agencies and other assignments as required. Supported agencies with MOUs will have priority for Forsyth County AuxComm / ARES resources. (An MOU is a Memorandum of Understanding, which is a formal agreement among different agencies or entities, indicating an intended common line of action.)

Remember the following guidelines in all your ham-radio communications, but especially when you are operating as an AuxComm / ARES volunteer:

- Never interfere,
- Always be courteous, and,
- If interference occurs, report the circumstances relating to interference to the EC.
- Never give out For Official Use Only information to persons without a direct need to know. If in doubt, ask the EC.
- Restrict the use of repeater output frequencies for simplex communications to repeater outages, emergencies, or situations where specifically authorized by the repeater trustee.
- Follow the band plans for all HF, VHF and UHF Amateur Radio bands.

If you are intentionally interfered with on a simplex or repeater frequency, ignore the interference. Confrontation is what the interfering station wants. Ignore it, move on and report

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the circumstances with as much information as possible to the AuxComm / ARES EC.

This concludes tonight's training on Forsyth County, NC AuxComm / ARES Introduction to Status and Responsibility.

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