



MISSION VIEJO RACES-ARES HANDBOOK

What Is Mission Viejo RACES-ARES



HISTORY.....

In November 1992, the City of Mission Viejo was developing an emergency plan. Concern about communications led the city to approach the South Orange Amateur Radio Association about organizing local amateur radio operators to provide emergency communications. In early 1993 the Mission Viejo Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) started with 10 members.

In the latter part 1994 with membership of about twenty members re-organization took place. The RACES members decided they could better serve the community by holding dual membership in Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) and Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES). In order to apply for an FCC Amateur Radio License we became the Mission Viejo Emergency Amateur Radio Club and received the call-sign KE6SWE. By February 1995, membership was growing, training, and preparing for service.

CURRENT ORGANIZATION.....

The Mission Viejo Emergency Amateur Radio Club (RACES-ARES) is guided by the City of Mission Viejo's Department of Emergency Services, presently there are fourteen registered volunteer Amateur Radio Operators, who use their own and/or city owned equipment to assist with emergency communications.

As an ARES group, the members become local volunteers helping out. In a "declared" disaster, the group can 'change hats' and become a Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) group. The Mission Viejo Emergency ARC (RACES-ARES) members are registered as Disaster Service Workers by the City of Mission Viejo, thus they are eligible for workmen's compensation through OES/FEMA when activated.

There is a weekly radio check-in every Tuesday with a member assigned as Net Control Station operating from their home or from one of the Emergency Operations Centers. We also hold meetings on the last Tuesday each month for the purpose of planning and training.

OFFICERS.....

- RACES Radio Officer & ARES Emergency Coordinator. . . Charley Speelman, WA6RUZ
- Assistant Radio Officer, Operations Dale ????, W8???
- Assistant Training Officer Joe ????, KK6???
- Club Station KE6??? License Trustee Jay ????, AD6???

For information contact: Charley Speelman
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Check our web site for additional information at: <http://www.mvraces.org>
 Training Materials: <http://www.public.mvraces.org>
 Members Only Login: <http://www.members.mvraces.org>



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MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

General Information

RACES (“race-ease”) and ARES (‘air-ease’) are a volunteer segment of the amateur radio fraternity which has a interest in public service. Mission Viejo supports a RACES group which is associated with the city’s Emergency Services Office. The members of the Mission Viejo RACES group decided they could better serve the community by holding dual membership in RACES and ARES.

As you may know, during routine, day-to-day situations, city government, local Police, Sheriff and Fire Departments utilize their own public service communications systems. However, during widespread civil emergencies (such as an earthquake), it is expected that several problems may occur which would hamper these communications:

1. The telephone and cellphone systems, including special circuits, may be disabled by downed or broken lines and disruption at the central offices can be expected.
2. The commercial power system may fail due to downed or broken lines and failures at distribution points.
3. Police, Sheriff and Fire Department communications systems will be over-taxed with requests for assistance and damage reports.
4. Communications to other areas (county and state offices) may be disrupted for many hours.

Experience and test exercises have shown that most local governments can cope with the first two problems, but saturation of public service communications system is difficult to practice. Actually, any communication system will become saturated during a large scale emergency because there would be only a limited number of people available to handle the calls for service.

The practical approach to normal communication systems has been to gear the size of the system to day-to-day needs and available funds. Of course, this means an easily over-taxed system. Most non-military systems have little or no reserve capability. The RACES communications organization primarily provides an alternate method of passing information without requiring extra funding by the municipality. RACES and ARES volunteers donate their time and bring their personal equipment to provide this service.

RACES Requirements

1. Must be a licensed radio amateur operator, no code technician or above, at least 18 years of age.
2. No felony convictions or FCC violations.
3. RACES-ARES personnel must possess (and maintain) a working amateur radio station, capable of operation on the Mission Viejo RACES frequencies (UHF and 2 meter), preferably portable in nature.
4. RACES-ARES personnel are not to miss more than five (5) consecutive, weekly radio training/resource nets, or attend less than two (2) meetings per year, and must participate in at least one (1) activity (drills, emergencies or public service events) in a twelve (12) month period.
5. RACES-ARES personnel MUST complete within the first 6 months of membership, the Department of Homeland Security’s training in (NIMS) National Incident Management System and (ICS) Incident Command System. Courses ICS-700, ICS-100, and ICS-200.
6. *Level-2 “Mutual Aid Training” is optional* but, all personnel are asked to participate as a group in learning the procedures used in mutual aid.

Desirable qualifications: Synthesized radios on UHF (440) and VHF 2-meter band (144-148), HF capability, 50 MHz stations, and prior or subsequent training in first aid, search and rescue, emergency communications, police/fire sciences and radio traffic handling.

Enthusiasm and a desire to serve the community are highly desirable qualifications for continued participation in Mission Viejo RACES-ARES.

RACES Disqualification

The following will result in automatic and permanent RACES termination:

1. Any subsequent felony convictions or FCC violations.
2. Unprofessional behavior while representing the City of Mission Viejo or any conduct which would bring discredit upon the RACES organization.
3. Use or attempted use of Mission Viejo RACES insignia, badge, decal, plaques, stickers or city issued equipment, any article bearing “Civil Defense,” “RACES,” “CD,” Mission Viejo Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service,” or any article, effect or statement giving reference to involvement in Mission Viejo RACES, to influence any city employee, police, sheriff or fire official or to give any special consideration to Mission Viejo RACES personnel during a non-emergency situation without specific approval by the RACES Radio Officer or the Emergency Services Coordinator of the City of Mission Viejo.
4. Failure to attend meetings and failure to respond to radio roll call on a continuing basis. This may be waived by the RACES Radio Officer if unusual or excusable circumstances apply.
5. Equipment incapable of operation on Mission Viejo RACES primary frequencies.
6. Providing false or misleading information on membership applications.
7. Disobedience of a RACES or City official during any event, disaster, or drill except when compliance with orders would be criminal in nature or would endanger any person or property.