



# MISSION VIEJO RACES-ARES HANDBOOK



## Mission Viejo Emergency Amateur Radio Club Charter

### Overview

The Mission Viejo Emergency Amateur Radio Club (ARC) is a volunteer group of Amateur Radio operators licensed by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). The purpose of the Mission Viejo Emergency ARC is to provide emergency communications for the City of Mission Viejo and its citizens during times of disaster. These licensed Amateur Radio operators provide the communications service free of charge, in accordance with FCC Rules and Regulations. The organization maintains dual affiliation with the Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) and the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) to facilitate effective and comprehensive emergency communications capabilities.

RACES is the Amateur Radio emergency communications and disaster preparedness arm of the U.S. government and is administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) branch of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). The purpose of RACES is to provide emergency communications between governmental entities. During a disaster a RACES unit is activated by the governmental entity it supports. The Mission Viejo Emergency ARC was established to provide emergency communications for the City government of Mission Viejo, and is affiliated with the City of Mission Viejo Department of Emergency Services. Each member of the Mission Viejo Emergency ARC has signed an oath to the city. Therefore, when the Mission Viejo Emergency ARC is officially activated, each member becomes a volunteer city employee, covered by Workers Compensation Insurance. In addition, when officially activated, the Mission Viejo Emergency ARC operates within the guidelines of the Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS), as does the City of Mission Viejo. The Mission Viejo Emergency ARC maintain alliances with County of Orange RACES and the State of California Office of Emergency Services.

ARES is the emergency communications branch of the American Radio Relay League (ARRL), a nationwide organization of radio amateurs. ARES functions similar to RACES, but is not limited to government-to-government communications. ARES can provide health and welfare communications to any organization, public or private. In addition, unlike RACES, ARES does not need governmental authorization to activate, and therefore can self-activate for a more rapid deployment. It is for these reasons the dual affiliation was established. As a result, the Mission Viejo Emergency ARC can respond quickly in support of governmental and non-governmental organizations alike. The Mission Viejo Emergency ARC has developed working relationships with other local emergency communications organizations within southern Orange County, including the Hospital Disaster Support Communications System (HDSCS), and the Orange County Chapter of the American Red Cross, Disaster Services.

### Operation

Mission Viejo Emergency ARC members utilize their own radio equipment in addition to equipment provided by the City of Mission Viejo. The organization primarily operates through the South Orange Amateur Radio Association (SOARA) repeaters, but is prepared to operate on an assigned simplex frequency should the repeater become unavailable following a disaster. The Mission Viejo Emergency ARC operates Emergency Operations Centers (EOC): EOC-1, located at the City of Mission Viejo City Hall – 200 Civic Center, Mission Viejo, CA 92691, EOC-2 (callsign KE6SWE), located at the Norman P. Murray Senior and Community Center. In addition, the Mission Viejo Emergency ARC is prepared to establish a temporary EOC in the field in the event that one or more of the established EOCs become unusable following a disaster.

### Organization

The Mission Viejo Emergency ARC is lead by a Radio Officer, who is in turn supported by an Assistant Radio Officer(s). During a operation the general membership is deployed via a flexible organizational structure to fulfill communications requirements utilizing available personnel.

### Training

Each Mission Viejo Emergency ARC member is expected to participate in the periodic activation drills, monthly meetings, and weekly radio nets. The organization develops some of the training itself. In addition, training is conducted with or obtained from other emergency communications organizations, including FEMA home study courses on emergency preparedness and response.



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