



Mission Viejo RACES – ARES HANDBOOK



RECOMMENDED STANDARD EQUIPMENT AND DRESS

Identification: The only emergency identification card you are authorized to display is the City of Mission Viejo Disaster Service Worker ID CARD. This is the card that is issued to each person upon acceptance into the RACES program. DO NOT wear any other form of ID during RACES activities. This is applicable to public service events such as city festivals and parades, as well as to training exercises and actual emergencies. DO NOT wear your ID card to any other group's functions or events, except for a Mission Viejo RACES coordinated mutual aid events. ID cards will be required at all RACES meetings and events, as well as inside all city facilities including the Emergency Operations Center (EOC).

Dress and Equipment: The clothing a RACES representative wears at any particular event or emergency will depend on the particular situation and its requirements. Let common sense be your guide. RACES strives to present a neat, professional appearance at all times, consistent with the occasion and weather. Following are a few guidelines to be followed:

(1) MEETINGS: ID card is mandatory. Wear clean clothing normally worn to work or at home. There is no need to wear RACES hats or clothing to meetings.

(2) PUBLIC SERVICE EVENTS: ID card is mandatory. Wear clothing appropriate to the event as prescribed by the RACES Officer. Do not wear military uniform items, clothing identifying other amateur radio/public service groups, armbands, or clothing making any type of political statement.

(3) EMERGENCY CALL-OUTS AND DRILLS: When in doubt, check with the RACES Officer prior to the date of the event. The only exception will be "Full Call-Out" drills, where all personnel will be required to respond wearing, or in possession of full RACES gear (ID card, MVRACES hat and jacket, if available). In any emergency call-out, be prepared for a 12-hour "tour of duty."

(4) FOUL WEATHER GEAR: Use common sense and judgment when selecting clothing. Select clothing that can be layered so as to trap warm layers of air between them -- and keep out any wind and moisture. Visibility is a major factor as well. Bring outer clothing items that are light and/or bright in color and avoid dark colors. Mission Viejo RACES have selected orange as our official signal color. Remember to reposition your ID card when donning or removing outer garments -- it must remain visible at all times, particularly during an emergency situation.

(5) EQUIPMENT: Handy Talkie (HT) Radio for 440MHz. (Additional bands are desirable, particularly 2-Meters.) Include the operating manual for each radio. Mobile radios with their higher power and better antennas are highly desirable during emergencies.

- Telescoping antenna for each HT radio. Too often the rubber duck will not reach Net Control. However, many times the telescoping antenna is a danger to others around in a crowd, and then the rubber duck is more desirable. Carry both.
- Extra Battery Packs or Batteries for each radio. Alkaline battery packs are recommended.
- One set of fresh Alkaline batteries (minimum) for each radio.
- Ear Phone Button type. Be sure it fits your radio(s)
- Pens (or pencils) and paper note pad.
- RACES Roster, current HANDBOOK.
- Plastic poncho for unexpected rain.
- One Gallon Zip Lock bags for protection of your HT and other moisture sensitive items from rain.
- Sunscreen & personnel medications if needed (24 hr supply)
- Flashlight and spare batteries.

YOUR SAFETY IS OUR NUMBER ONE CONCERN.

In any public-service or disaster callout, you are usually dispatched to locations by the Net Control operator under the instructions by the RACES Officer. If you want to deviate from your assignment, you must get permission and coordinate this with Net Control. Net Control must know your whereabouts at all times when you are activated. However an obvious exception for this is when your safety is in jeopardy. If you run across a scene where oil drums are exploding, people are threatening violence, a yellow cloud is floating toward you or perhaps the waves are breaking over Pacific Coast Highway. You are required to remove yourself from that situation first, and inform net control as soon as possible - - at least as soon as you are safe.

If you feel that your safety or health is in danger at ANY TIME, remove yourself from that situation and/or discard or cover-up ALL RACES ID, hat, wind breaker with City name. Hide you radio so you are not viewed as an official of the City.THEN inform Net Control.



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