

ARES/RACES INFORMATION FOR SAFE MEMBERS

Background

ARES/RACES stands for Amateur Radio Emergency Service/Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service. ARES is part of the field organization of the American Radio Relay League (www.arrl.org), the national organization for Amateur Radio. RACES is a FEMA (www.fema.gov) sponsored auxiliary communications service for state and local government. In Santa Clara County, ARES members provide RACES communications.

In Santa Clara County

ARES/RACES volunteers provide auxiliary communications service to the County, to all cities, to several special districts and to all hospitals in Santa Clara County. Amateur Radio is the primary backup to wireline services for communications between EOCs throughout the County. Additionally, ARES/RACES provides communications from field locations to EOCs.

In Milpitas

Milpitas ARES/RACES (www.qsl.net/mares) consists of about thirty FCC-licensed Amateur Radio operators who are Disaster Service Workers. City-owned 2-meter and 222 MHz repeaters are located in the City radio vault on top of the Crowne Plaza Hotel. Amateur radios are installed in the Main EOC and the Alternate EOC and on board the OES Communications Van.

ARES/RACES and SAFE

It is highly desirable for each SAFE team to have one or more Amateur Radio operators among its members in order to provide communications from neighborhoods to the Milpitas EOC. Alternatively, an ARES/RACES responder will be dispatched to activated SAFE teams to provide their communications.

FCC Licensing

Obtaining an FCC license to operate on frequencies used by ARES/RACES for local communications is possible without learning Morse Code. Many volunteers throughout the County have attended brief courses which allowed them to pass their No-Code Technician Class FCC License examination. Check this SAFE Member web site for information on upcoming classes.

Frequencies of Interest to SAFE

- Milpitas ARES/RACES – 224.720 MHz (- offset; 100.0 Hz CTCSS)
- Milpitas ARES/RACES – 145.430 MHz (- offset; 85.4 Hz CTCSS)
- Central County ARES/RACES – 146.115 MHz (+ offset; 100.0 Hz CTCSS)
- North County ARES/RACES – 145.270 MHz (- offset; 100.0 Hz CTCSS)
- Milpitas Police Primary – 482.8625 MHz (162.2 Hz CTCSS)
- Milpitas Fire Primary – 460.625 MHz (179.9 Hz CTCSS)