

TRAINING OF HAM VOLUNTEERS

There are two levels of training for volunteers accepted into Lane County ARES. First, is to teach the basic skills for new comers to the unit, and second, to have continuing training for longer term members.

A. New Members of Unit

New members will need to be certified under the ARRL Emergency Communications courses, Em Comm Level I, and will need to take and be certified in the Incident Command System courses, ICS 100, 200 and 700.

The ARRL announced that Em Comm Level II and Em Comm Level III will be replaced with a single Em Comm Advanced Level. However, the book will not be released until the Fall 2009. Once available, classes on that topic will be taught locally. The various ICS courses are taught and tested by internet courses run by FEMA over its website.

B. Existing Members Continuing Education

The project annual continuing training includes at a minimum:

1. Annual presentations on packet/Pactor by a general academy and periodic programs at clubs and groups, not only to train members in those modes, but also to refresh the skills required by those modes for those members of the unit who are already trained in the modes.

2. Regular presentations by unit's EMCOMM leadership of short refresher programs at all groups and clubs on such topics as tactical calls; packet/Pactor equipment and operations; ready kits, both equipment and personal gear; frequency charts; map and compass; and related topics appropriate for regular refresher courses.

3. Participation in the Spring and Fall Simulated Emergency Tests ["SETS"] which are either locally set up or will be conducted state-wide by the State ARES/RACES leadership.

4. Participation in the half dozen or so regular public service events held between April and December and at least one locally designed SET.

5. Quarterly exercises so that members of the unit go to each of the regular and alternate EOC/radio sites. The goal is to check out equipment at each site, verify the operability of the sites, re-enforce training standards, and provide regular

packet/Pactor activity by members of the unit. Ideally, all members will rotate through all of the sites over a year or year plus, so the ability to provide "last mile" communication services at each site is independent of membership in a group or club.

6. At least one annual drill to test and confirm the workability of the mutual aid protocols.

7. All are expected to maintain a course of self-study to improve skills and knowledge of both the hobby and EMCOMM. Such self-study should include keeping up on one's ICS and FEMA course standards. All are expected to check into HF nets, VHF nets and participate on a regular basis. And all should consider appropriate appearance, clothing, and behavior - so that whenever involved in an emergency or public service event, every EMCOMM ham gives the best in both operations and in appearance, representing all EMCOMM hams.