

Appendix D – Acronym Definitions

These definitions are intended to improve communications clarity between amateur radio emergency communications personnel, Emergency Managers, public service agencies, and the general public.

- ARES Amateur Radio Emergency Service – initiated in 1935, a standby radio service consisting of licensed amateur radio operators who have voluntarily registered their qualifications and equipment with their local ARES leadership for communications duty in the public service when disaster strikes.
- ARRL American Radio Relay League – founded in 1914, it is the largest organization of radio amateurs in the United States, with more than 167,200 members (as of August 2015).
- COP Common Operating Picture. A Department of Defense term describing an identical display of relevant information. It is used in civilian emergency management to enable on-scene and off-scene personnel to have the same information, including availability and location of resources and status of assistance requests.
- DEC District Emergency Coordinator – is an appointee of the ARES who leads emergency communications preparedness efforts in one of the nine ARES districts in Washington state (which have the same boundaries as the Washington RHSCDs). This person also has a dual state-level appointment as a Regional RACES Coordinator for their RHSCD.
- DHS United States DePARTMENT of Homeland Security – formed in 2002, its mission is to ensure that the United States is safe, secure, and resilient against terrorism and other hazards.
- EC Emergency Coordinator – is an appointee of the ARES who leads emergency communications preparedness and responses within a local local jurisdiction. This person may also have a dual local-level appointment by local emergency management authorities the local RACES Radio Officer.
- EM Emergency Manager – the governmental official in each jurisdiction who is responsible for emergency mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery within that jurisdiction.
- EOC Emergency Operations Center – the central command and control facility (and/or backup facility) in each jurisdiction which is responsible for emergency management and for communications with the Washington Emergency Management Division.
- EOC Relay Station An EOC may designate one or more amateur radio stations to serve as relay points for radio traffic to and from that EOC. An EOC Relay Station would be activated if amateur radio communications at an EOC were impaired in some way (volunteer staff overload, signal interference, equipment/antenna failure, etc.). Although the selection criteria is up to the individual county, it would likely be someone with EOC operations training, experience in HF/VHF/UHF net operations, and located close enough to the EOC so that message relay can take place on VHF/UHF simplex frequencies.
- ESF Emergency Support Function – A portion of a comprehensive emergency management plan (federal, state, or local) that describes activities related to a single function. Communications is ESF #2.

Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Interoperability Plan

FCC	<u>F</u> ederal <u>C</u> ommunications <u>C</u> ommission – created in 1934, an independent agency of the United States government which regulates interstate and international communications by radio, television, wire, satellite and cable.
FEMA	<u>F</u> ederal <u>E</u> mergency <u>M</u> anagement <u>A</u> gency – created in 1979 and part of the DHS since 2003, FEMA coordinates responses to disasters in the United States and that overwhelm the resources of local and state authorities.
HSPD	<u>H</u> omeland <u>S</u> ecurity <u>P</u> residential <u>D</u> irective – An executive order issued by the President of the United States with the advice and consent of the National Security Council. HSPD5 directed the Secretary of Homeland Security to develop and administer a National Incident Management System (NIMS).
ISNAP	<u>I</u> ncident <u>S</u> napshot. A standard report form used by the Washington State Emergency Operations Center which is submitted by participating counties and tribes upon EOC activation for a major event that could be considered catastrophic. If a county fails to report, the assumption will be that they are unable to report.
MARS	<u>M</u> ilitary <u>A</u> uxiliary <u>R</u> adio <u>S</u> ystem – created in 1948 and sponsored by the United States Department of Defense, a civilian auxiliary to the Air Force, Army, and Navy consisting primarily of licensed amateur radio operators who assist the military with communications on a local, national, and international basis as an adjunct to normal communications.
Mesh	A wireless data network topology used by the amateur radio community where each node is capable of discovering other network nodes and self-configuring an ad hoc network under emergency conditions.
NCS / Alternate NCS	<u>N</u> et <u>C</u> ontrol <u>S</u> tation – the amateur radio station (equipment and operator) presiding over an emergency communications net session. Each station authorized to be a NCS is deemed an Alternate NCS when not actively controlling the net.
NIMS	<u>N</u> ational <u>I</u> ncident <u>M</u> anagement <u>S</u> ystem – the federally mandated emergency management doctrine used across the United States to coordinate emergency preparedness and incident management and response among the public (federal, tribal, state, and local government agencies) non-governmental organization, and private sectors.
NTS	<u>N</u> ational <u>T</u> raffic <u>S</u> ystem – established in 1947 in Washington state and in 1949 nationally, an organized network of amateur radio operators which relays written messages throughout the U.S. and Canada from origin to destination during emergencies. Radiograms are used to communicate information critical to saving lives or property, or to inquire about the health or welfare of a disaster victim.
RACES	<u>R</u> adio <u>A</u> mateur <u>C</u> ivil <u>E</u> mergency <u>S</u> ervice – developed in 1952, a standby radio service governed under Part 97.407 of the FCC rules and regulations. RACES is activated by local, county, and state jurisdictions, uses FEMA protocols, and are the only amateur radio operators authorized to transmit during declared emergencies when the President of the United States specifically invokes powers granted under 47 U.S.C. §606.

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- RHSCD Regional Homeland Security Coordination District – an area of the state which administers federal grant funds and promotes coordination, collaboration, and improved communications over a broad range of areas that include planning, training, exercises, resource sharing, and mutual aid.
- RO Radio Officer – the liaison between the RACES organization and the emergency management director. This person may also have a dual local-level appointment by local emergency management authorities the Emergency Coordinator.
- SEC Section Emergency Coordinator – is an appointee of the ARES who leads emergency communications preparedness efforts in one of the two ARRL sections in Washington state. This person also has a dual state-level appointment as an Assistant State RACES Radio Officer.
- SITREP Situation Report. A Department of Defense term used in civilian emergency management. Situation reports offer a snapshot of the past operational period of an incident and contain confirmed or verified information regarding the explicit details relating to an incident.
- UASI Urban Areas Security Initiative – part of the Homeland Security Grant Program in the 2010 federal fiscal year. Clark County is part of the Portland UASI.
- Winlink A worldwide system of radio stations and network assets supporting email by radio, with non-commercial links to Internet email. The system provides service to emergency communicators without access to the Internet.