Utah County ARES Certification Program

Introduction

Utah County ARES (UCARES) has established a certification program to prepare members for Emergency Operations. Participation in this program is not required to join UCARES or use UCARES repeaters. All Amateurs Operators are welcomed to participate as their abilities and schedule permits.

The Certification Levels are designed to increase you involvement and preparedness. It is recommended that everyone intending to participate with UCARES during a disaster complete the first two levels. Those interested in being actively involved, or in serving in leadership positions, should complete all levels. During a callout or emergency operation, assignments will be made corresponding to the Certification Level of the operator.

> Level One prepares you for a *participating role* in Emergency Operations.
> Level Two prepares you for a *supporting role* in Emergency Operations.
> Level Three prepares you for a *responsible role* in Emergency Operations.
> Level Four prepares you for a *leading role* in Emergency Operations.
> Packet prepares you to use UCARES packet stations in Emergency Operations.
> Family Preparedness prepares your family so you can help others during an emergency.

Completing a Certification Level

Certification is considered complete only after you have turned in your form to the Emergency Coordinator (EC) or an Assistant Emergency Coordinator (AEC). You may work on future Certification Level requirements before completing your current level.

It is important that you turn in your completed Certification Level form quickly. For an event to count towards a Certification Level, it must be within **one year** of completion of that Level. Exceptions may be made at the discretion of the EC.

After completing a Certification Level, it is expected that you will maintain the Equipment required for that Certification Level.

Visiting Liaisons

Part of Certification is becoming familiar with liaison locations. To complete these requirements, the visit must be during an ARES sponsored event (ARES net, RACES net, call-out, Interface meeting, SET, etc.).

Continuing Certification (Optional)

Continuing participation is essential to maintain preparedness and to stay current with protocols and procedures. Once you have reached Level Four, you can optionally complete the Continuing Certification requirement on a calendar year basis. All participation for a given calendar year, even if used for completing a Certification Level, applies toward Continuing Certification.

Utah County ARES Certification Program (cont.)

FEMA and ARRL Courses

Included in the Certifications are courses given by FEMA and ARRL. These are considered essential to performing in leading roles during Emergency Operations. Proof of successful completion will be required before passing that certification.

The National Incident Management System (NIMS) course (IS-700) is available as a self-study program with an online test. Information about NIMS can be found at:
> http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/is700.asp
> http://www.nimsonline.com

FEMA offers a course on Incident Command System: IS-100 (this replaced IS-195). This self-study course and test are available at:
> http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/is100.asp

The ARRL offers three courses on Amateur Radio Emergency Communications (AREC): EC-001, EC-002 and EC-003. These courses are available through online enrollment, and take a significant amount of time to complete (around 25 hours). Information about the courses can be found on the ARRL website: http://www.arrl.org/cce/

UCARES may also offer the ARRL courses from time to time for free. Successfully completing an UCARES taught course is sufficient for passing the Continuing Certification requirement; however, to receive a certificate of completion, a fee must still be paid to ARRL.

TERT Participation

Timpanogos Emergency Response Team (http://www.tert.org) is a volunteer group that is sponsored by Utah County ARES, Utah County Sheriff's Office, and the US Forest Service. They provide a valuable service to Utah County and often work with emergency situations in extreme conditions. UCARES members that participate with TERT may count some of their activity towards Certification requirements as follows:

- TERT Training days (Outdoor or Medical) may each count as an SET
- TERT Weekends count as a Public Service Event (if on duty at least 24 hours)

Participation With Other Groups

Often we have the opportunity to volunteer and work with other groups in the community. While participation with them may be beneficial and even encouraged, they will not count towards UCARES Certification requirements. Only officially sponsored UCARES events will qualify, and you must participate as a UCARES member.

Changes to Certification Levels

It will be necessary to make changes and improvements to the requirements. All completed Certification Levels will be automatically "grandfathered" in. You should always work with the current Certification requirements. If you are close to completing a Certification Level when changes are made to the requirements, and you wish to continue with the previous requirements, you should first discuss your options with the EC.

Utah County ARES Packet Radio Certification

Name: _____ Callsign: _____

Purpose

To obtain basic packet radio skills on Utah County equipment.

Participation

During a UCARES sponsored event (e.g. callout, SET, public service
event, Liaison EOC check-in), complete the following requirements:

Setup the packet station (with no assistance)   _____

Connect to another packet station and "Link Test" using two
different modes (e.g. Direct, Digipeat or Node)   _____

Send two messages using ARESPACK   _____

Receive and print two messages using ARESPACK   _____

Be able to type at minimum 20 words per minute   _____

Obtain and study the Utah County "Diagnostic Check List"   _____

Signoff

Turn in completed form to EC or AEC   _____