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 but it is encouraged and recommended. All Amateurs Operators are welcomed to participate as their abilities and schedule permits.

The Certification Levels are designed to increase your involvement and preparedness. It is recommended that everyone willing to participate with UCARES in a emergency situation, complete the first two levels. Those interested in being actively involved, or in serving in leadership positions, should complete all four levels. During a call-out or emergency operation, some assignments will be made based on the Certification Level of the operator.   Anyone interested in applying to the S.C.A.Team should complete all four certification levels as well as the packet and family certifications.

- **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.
- **Digital Communication** - prepares you to use digital communication 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 completed 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.).   For a list of current operating liaison and EOC's contact the UCARES Liaison coordinator.

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.

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.   Several of these courses may be required to inter-operate with certain served agencies.

The National Incident Management System (NIMS) course (IS-700.b) is available as a self- study program with an online test. Information about NIMS can be found at:
https://training.fema.gov/is/courseoverview.aspx?code=IS-700.b

FEMA offers a course on Introduction to Incident Command System: IS-100.c (replaced IS-100) and ICS for Single Resources and Initial Action Incidents: IS-200.c (replaced IS-200) This self-study course and test are available at:
https://training.fema.gov/is/courseoverview.aspx?code=IS-100.c

Also recommended is a course on the National Response Framework. This course is recommended for those wishing to interoperate with various served agencies. It is also a requirement for the AUXCOMM certification.
https://training.fema.gov/is/courseoverview.aspx?code=IS-800.d

The ARRL offers three courses on Amateur Radio Emergency Communications (AREC): EC-001, EC-016 & PR-101 These courses are available through online enrollment, and take a significant amount of time to complete (around 25 hours). While these courses are not currently part of the UCARES certification, they may be required to work with some of our served agency EOC's, and may be added to the certification at a later date. Information about the courses can be found on the ARRL website:
http://www.arrl.org/online-course-catalog

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 the 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 8 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. If you have questions as to what is an official UCARES sponsored event, contact the Emergency Coordinator or one of the Assistant Emergency Coordinators.

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 Family Preparedness Certification

Name: _____   Callsign: _____

Purpose

Through your involvement with ARES you have demonstrated your willingness and desire to be of service to others. It is hoped that by fulfilling these certification requirements that you will have the ability to respond in times of widespread disaster in Utah County.

Please understand that participating in this voluntary certification program in no way obligates you to provide any service to ARES now, or in times of disaster. Individual and family circumstances determine whether or not you will be in a position to serve. Our families are first priority. In times of disaster you cannot begin to be of service to others until you have first provided for the security and wellbeing of your family.

This is a different and unique voluntary Certification. It is part "check list", and part "food for thought." The fulfilling of these requirements requires participation to some extent by all family members. Some requirements are easily accomplished and checked off, while others require an on-going effort. Therefore, consider the requirements fulfilled as you meet the "spirit of the law" and not the "letter of the law."

Equipment Requirements

- 72 hour kit for each member of the family
- A personal 72 hour kit that you can take to your communications assignment (make certain that your kit does not contain any "family" items).

Training Requirements

Write a "family preparedness plan". This can be a simple outline. (The items below are not all-inclusive and may need to be tailored to your families needs)
- Where will you as a family rendezvous if a disaster occurs during work/school hours?
- Are children expected to remain at school until you come for them or are they expected to come home?
- Which parent will go to which school?
- How long will it take the parents to return home (worse case) if they must walk from work?
- Who will be "in charge" until mom and dad return.
- Make assignments in advance for all family members. This will give each family member a sense of purpose.
- Write and post a checklist for different emergencies i.e. power outage, earthquake, evacuation due to hazardous spills, etc. Coordinate with others in your neighborhood.
  Inform your neighbors and ecclesiastical leaders of your involvement in emergency communications. Ask them now to look after your family should you be needed to assist in emergency communications. You may wish to share with them your "family preparedness plan."

Utah County ARES Family Preparedness Certification

(Continued)

- Talk with other Hams in your neighborhood. Let them know how to contact you via radio. This would be done via any of the UCARES NET control operators, so advise them of our NET frequencies (147.28+ and 147.34+) and operating procedures.
- Provide training for all family members. Take all family members on a tour of the house to show them were emergency items are stored. This will also be a good review for you. Teach them the following items: o How and when to turn off the natural gas. Make sure that a proper tool is available for this purpose and they know where it is stored.
    - o How to turn off the water. o How to turn off the electricity o How to operate emergency lighting. o How to operate emergency heating.
    - o Ventilation requirements when using combustion products indoors. o How to access your water storage. o How to use your portable potty.
    - o How to purify water.
- Have a disaster dress rehearsal one cold dark winter evening.

We thank you for your willingness to help and your desire to serve. We hope that this exercise has been educational, enjoyable, and comforting.

Signoff

Turn in completed form to EC or AEC

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