

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 SCATeam should complete all four certification levels as well as digital communications 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.

Visit <http://www.ucares.org> for the latest version of this document.

Revision 32 - 10/01/20

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)

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Revision 32 - 10/01/20

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.

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Revision 32 - 10/01/20

Utah County ARES Level Four Certification

Name: _____

Callsign: _____

Purpose

Prepare ARES member to take a leadership role in Emergency Operations.

Prerequisites

Complete Utah County ARES Level 3 certification.

Date: _____

Training

Complete NIMS online course ICS-200.c

Date: _____

ICS for Single Resources and Initial Action Incidents (attach a copy of the certification)

Complete NIMS online course ICS-800.d

National Response Framework, An Introduction (attach a copy of the certification)

Date: _____

Equipment

70 cm handheld (preferred) or mobile radio

Sealed gel cell battery (10 AH minimum) with charger and powerpole connectors

12v LED lamp with powerpole connectors

Backup handheld radio 2M or 2M/70cm and spare antenna

Liaison

Four (4) check-ins to UCARES or VHF RACES Nets _____

(from a liaison EOC on agency night) _____

Participation

Six (6) UCARES weekly nets
(one must be a simplex net)

Two (2) UCARES Interface meetings

Four (4) UCARES sponsored public
service events or official ARES callouts.

One (1) UCARES sponsored S.E.T.

Four (4) UCARES Weekly nets as ANCS

Four (4) UCARES weekly nets as NCS

Check in to one (1) RACES HF net

Help organize radio communications for two (2) events

Signoff

Turn in completed form to EC or AEC

Revision 61

EC _____ Date _____