



Vermont Emergency Management

RACES EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS PROGRAM

VISION

“Prepared and committed to provide emergency communications during disasters to ensure the safety and welfare of our citizens”

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Vermont Emergency Management Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (VEM RACES) is to provide emergency communications support to Vermont Emergency Management and other served state or federal Agencies as directed by VEM during disasters, communications systems emergencies / outages, or civil emergencies.

To support this mission, VEM continues its commitment to maintain a comprehensive communications network utilizing the Vermont amateur radio community.

RACES COMMUNICATIONS AND MESSAGES

VEM RACES Radio Operators may be directed by VEM to provide supplemental communications to served federal or state Agencies, Municipalities and government officials, to provide civil defense communications services, and to otherwise assist VEM and the Agencies in accomplishing their emergency preparedness mission.

Examples of civil defense communications include those: concerning impending or actual conditions jeopardizing the public safety, or affecting the national defense or security during periods of local, regional, or national civil emergencies; directly concerning the immediate safety of life of individuals, the immediate protection of property, maintenance of law and order, alleviation of human suffering and need, and the combating of armed attack or sabotage; directly concerning the accumulation and dissemination of public information or instructions to the civilian population essential to the activities of the civil defense organization or other authorized governmental or relief agencies; and for purposes of RACES training nets, drills and exercises.

VEM RACES RADIO OPERATORS

VEM RACES Radio Operators are volunteers in the Emergency Communications (EmComm) auxiliary of VEM. All activities of VEM RACES Radio Operators are under the authority of the VEM Operations and Logistics Chief or designee. All VEM RACES Radio Operators shall be FCC-licensed Amateur Radio Operators, shall be enrolled with VEM, and shall have passed a Vermont Department of Public Safety background check.

Note that VEM RACES Radio Operators are not responders but serve in a communications role only.

AUTHORITY

Code of Federal Regulations Chapter 47 Section 97.407 (below).

Rev. 9/2019.

§97.407 Radio amateur civil emergency service.

(a) No station may transmit in RACES unless it is an FCC-licensed primary, club, or military recreation station and it is certified by a civil defense organization as registered with that organization. No person may be the control operator of an amateur station transmitting in RACES unless that person holds a FCC-issued amateur operator license and is certified by a civil defense organization as enrolled in that organization.

(b) The frequency bands and segments and emissions authorized to the control operator are available to stations transmitting communications in RACES on a shared basis with the amateur service. In the event of an emergency which necessitates invoking the President's War Emergency Powers under the provisions of section 706 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, 47 U.S.C. 606, amateur stations participating in RACES may only transmit on the frequency segments authorized pursuant to part 214 of this chapter.

(c) An amateur station registered with a civil defense organization may only communicate with the following stations upon authorization of the responsible civil defense official for the organization with which the amateur station is registered:

(1) An amateur station registered with the same or another civil defense organization; and

(2) A station in a service regulated by the FCC whenever such communication is authorized by the FCC.

(d) All communications transmitted in RACES must be specifically authorized by the civil defense organization for the area served. Only civil defense communications of the following types may be transmitted:

(1) Messages concerning impending or actual conditions jeopardizing the public safety, or affecting the national defense or security during periods of local, regional, or national civil emergencies;

(2) Messages directly concerning the immediate safety of life of individuals, the immediate protection of property, maintenance of law and order, alleviation of human suffering and need, and the combating of armed attack or sabotage;

(3) Messages directly concerning the accumulation and dissemination of public information or instructions to the civilian population essential to the activities of the civil defense organization or other authorized governmental or relief agencies; and

(4) Communications for RACES training drills and tests necessary to ensure the establishment and maintenance of orderly and efficient operation of the RACES as ordered by the responsible civil defense organization served. Such drills and tests may not exceed a total time of 1 hour per week. With the approval of the chief officer for emergency planning in the applicable State, Commonwealth, District or territory, however, such tests and drills may be conducted for a period not to exceed 72 hours no more than twice in any calendar year.

[75 FR 78171, Dec. 15, 2010]