

The Vermont DEMHS RACES Program

What is RACES?

What can be done when disaster strikes? At times of a natural disasters, the DEMHS RACES Program can spring into action to provide Emergency Communications for Vermont. Emergency communications are a critical component in town, county or statewide disaster recovery efforts.

The Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) is a volunteer organization of amateur radio operators who are licensed by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to provide essential communications for State and local governments in times of emergency. Created in 1952 primarily to serve in civil defense emergencies, RACES provides essential voice and digital communications and warning links to assist State and local governments during emergencies.

As a secondary function, RACES is sponsored by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to provide emergency communications for civil preparedness purposes. RACES members use their primary stations or State RACES sites to conduct emergency communications on specific frequencies. This secondary function occurs if the President invokes the War Emergency Powers Act.

RACES DRILLS AND TRAINING



Our annual RACES training conferences allow our members to learn about new operating standards within the organization. This includes the Vermont Yankee and the Healthcare Network system. Additional drills and training sessions are planned annually which are specifically designed to provide operating opportunities for all RACES members throughout the State.



Vermont DEMHS RACES Program

Vermont Division of Emergency Management
and Homeland Security
Department of Public Safety
103 South Main Street
Waterbury, VT 05671-2101

Visit our website for more information
<http://vem.vermont.gov/programs/races>

Vermont DEMHS RACES



RADIO AMATEUR CIVIL EMERGENCY SERVICES



*Providing Emergency
Communications for
Vermont*

800-347-0488



Vermont DEMHS RACES Program



RADIO AMATEUR CIVIL EMERGENCY SERVICES

The DEMHS RACES program continues its efforts to establish a comprehensive emergency communications network utilizing the Vermont amateur radio community. The primary mission of the program is to provide health and welfare emergency communications during disasters or significant failures of telecommunication systems. In accordance with this mission, there are now over 200 registered members of the DEMHS RACES program.

Additionally, our communication networks are continually enhanced to maximize operational capabilities. This includes our 30 station statewide healthcare network.



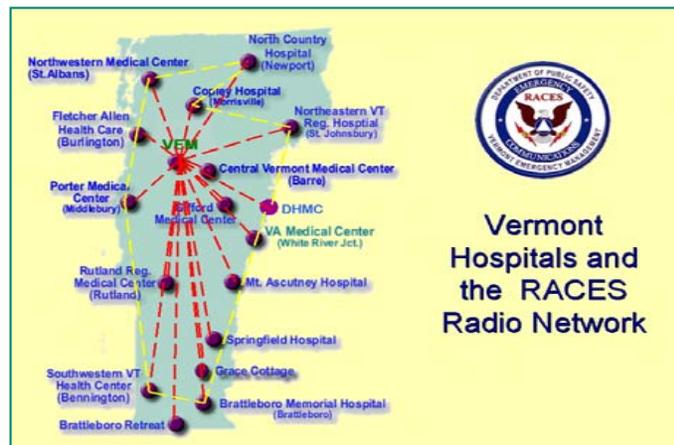
In September of 2008, the FCC assigned the call sign of N1VEM to be used at the Vermont State EOC located in Waterbury, VT.

RACES Communications Systems

During a declared emergency, DEMHS activates the RACES team to provide essential emergency communications to areas of the state where communication systems may be overloaded or disrupted. The RACES team utilizes over 60 stations to communicate including the RACES Health Care Network, Vermont Yankee EPZ, Mobile CERT units, Vermont Department of Transportation and other locations. The RACES team can effectively communicate via HF/VHF/UHF bands through the use of voice or digital modes.

Statewide Healthcare Network

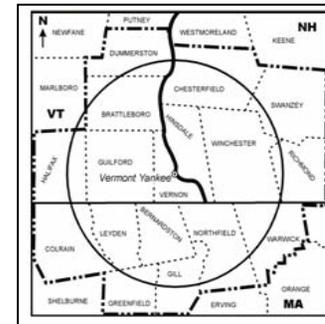
In 2007, DEMHS launched the RACES Healthcare Network. A joint initiative between the Vermont Department of Health and Vermont Emergency Management, 30 stations have been installed at Vermont Hospitals and Health Department sites. RACES members are now assigned to each location and work with each site to establish station operating procedures. The RACES Healthcare Network provides hospitals and health departments with an emergency voice and digital radio network to help manage local and statewide disasters.



Vermont Yankee Nuclear Network

DEMHS RACES operators provide emergency communications during our annual Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant drills. All town EOC's within this area have radio equipment installed for our operators to use during drills or actual emergency events.

Over 25 team members are stationed in several of the emergency planning zone (EPZ) towns in Windham County and at the DEMHS State Emergency Center (SEOC) during these annual events.



RACES Contact Information & Membership

The RACES program now has over 200 licensed operators who provide Vermont with vitally important emergency communication services. With this number of licensed operators throughout State, the RACES network is now able to provide emergency communications in any part of the Vermont when requested.

If you are interested in learning more or joining the DEMHS RACES program, please contact Program Coordinator John Borichevsky, N1TOX at N1TOX@gmail.com or call DEMHS at 1-800-347-0488.