

Public/Emergency Service

Amateur radio has a variety of public and emergency communication service roles. By law, amateur radio operators assist as unpaid volunteers.



ARES consists of licensed amateurs who have volunteered for communications duty in the public service when disaster strikes. They have been active in many recent events, including Hurricane Katrina and 9/11.

RACES stands ready to provide communications support to state and local government agencies in times of emergency.



Local CERTs prepare to assist local emergency responders in case of disaster or emergency. Ham radio is an important tool in their programs.

Public/Emergency Service (cont)



The Red Cross includes amateur radio operators to provide essential communications between shelters and facilities as part of their disaster services plan.



S.A.T.E.R.N.

Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network

The Salvation Army has a network of amateur radio operators who will assist with health and welfare checks on family and loved ones in a disaster affected area.



Amateur radio operators work with the National Weather Service to help track severe weather, when and where it happens.

Other Public Service

Hams also participate in non-emergency public service operations. They may be members of the organizations mentioned, or of other clubs and organizations, or just individuals.

Here are some local events that use ham radio volunteers:

- Miramar Air Show
- Ultra-marathons
- Bicycle rides
- Parades

Hams assist the Boy Scouts:

- Jamboree on the Air
- Radio Merit Badge
- Preparedness exercises

There is a ham station on the International Space Station. Through the ARISS program hams arrange for students from schools around the world to talk directly with the astronauts on the Space Station.

There is a ham station on the USS Midway Museum, which is maintained and operated by volunteers.

If you would like more information, contact information is given on the back of this brochure.