



RACES / ARES

**(Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service)
(Amateur Radio Emergency Service)**

The Irving RACES group is also the Irving RACES/ARES group. All Irving RACES members are also ARES members (mandatory requirement), which is why they are designated RACES/ARES.

RACES is recognized both locally and nationally. It is a volunteer service that is endorsed and empowered by the Federal Government in the Federal Communications Commission Rules and Regulations Part 97.407.

All Irving RACES/ARES members are registered members of the City of Irving Office of Emergency Management and report to the Irving RACES Radio Officer, or his assistant(s). The Irving RACES Radio Officer reports directly to the City of Irving Emergency Management Coordinator, which in turn supports the Dallas County Office of Emergency Management, both of which are supported by, and support, FEMA (the Federal Emergency Management Agency). These agencies were formerly identified (and sometimes still are) as Civil Defense groups.

The primary purpose of RACES/ARES is to furnish communications to help protect and insure the safety and welfare of the citizens of Irving. We can be activated for any threatening situation or disaster, or any situation requiring our communications support, including WMC (weapons of mass destruction), but the majority of activation's deal with weather. All members are Skywarn trained and are the on-the-scene observers from which the U.S. Weather Service draws its primary information to issue warnings/alerts.

RACES is identified in most Dallas County emergency response plans. In Irving we have a ECC (Emergency Communication Center) at a Irving

City facility, a back-up ECC at a different location, a operating position at both dispatches and at various medical facilities. Other County RACES EOC's (Emergency Operating Center)/ECC's are located in the command centers of Dallas, Richardson, Plano, Mesquite, Garland, Addison, Red Cross, DPS, and the major hospitals in Dallas County.

Additionally Irving RACES has the added responsibility of notifying the Irving Fire Department to activate the City Warning Notification System during severe weather when specific City defined criteria is met.

It is not necessary to be a member of any radio club to belong to Irving RACES/ARES, although a large number of operators are members of the Irving Amateur Radio Club. Membership in Irving RACES/ARES is maintained by fulfilling the requirements set forth by the Irving RACES Radio Officer.

All Irving RACES/ARES applications are screened and accepted or rejected by the City of Irving.

The Irving RACES/ARES membership requirements are:

Have a valid Amateur Radio license.

Commit to a 7 days a week/24 hours a day availability, second only to family emergencies and work requirements.

Training -

- 1) Attend a skywarn school initially, then at least every two years.
- 2) Complete FEMA Course IS-0700 and IS-0100 from the Emergency Management Institute Home Study Program (<http://training.fema.gov/emiweb/is/crslist.asp>) within three (3) months of acceptance as a RACES member.

Participation-

- 1) To originate and pass two messages on the NTS (ARRL National Traffic System) (One to Billy Geer KA5OZC 214-587-8729, and one to anybody else).
- 2) Check into twelve Dallas (or any RACES group in Dallas County) RACES Training Nets, of which six of those nets must be Irving RACES/ARES Training Nets.
- 3) Participate in at least twenty-five percent of unscheduled Irving RACES/ARES Nets
- 4) Participate in at least one net controlled public service event of at least 1.5 hours duration each year

Equipment-

- 1) Carry an alpha-numeric RACES group pager. This requires a contract with Verizon. The cost is approximately \$4.55 monthly. Paperwork will be supplied when accepted.
- 2) Have at least a 2-meter radio with a recommended output of 20 watts.