

What is YARS?

YARS (York ARES® RACES SKYWARN®) is an organization composed of interested individuals who are FCC licensed Amateur Radio Operators whose major purpose is to provide county wide Emergency communications at County EOC, Municipal EOC, shelters, CERT, Search and Rescue, and other agencies as directed. This group shall be composed of Amateur Operators who are registered with ARES® and with York County Department of Emergency Services (YCDES) as ACS Operators.

HEARS

Hospital Emergency Amateur Radio Service (HEARS) is a key partner for Emergency Communications. It is a group of licensed volunteer amateur radio operators who provide emergency communications to area hospitals.

Communications: The Key to Survival

When is Amateur Radio Emergency Communications needed?

Amateur Radio communications are vital during emergencies such as:

National Disasters/WMD *

Tornadoes/Hurricanes

Winter/Summer Storms

Earthquakes/Floods

Nuclear Accidents/"Dirty Bombs"

Blackouts/Gas Outages

Fires/Haz-Mat Incidents/Rescues

Frequently, normal communications sustain damage or are overloaded during these types of emergencies. It is then that YARS Emergency Communications operators become invaluable to emergency managers. YARS operators will relay information to a communications center. This information is provided to and then evaluated by Emergency Management personnel. This method assists in maintaining the flow of valuable "on-scene" information.

* Weapons of Mass Destruction



Amateur radio is also an essential link to help warn people about weather disasters. Many radio operators participate in Skywarn®, which is part of the National Weather Service (NWS). Skywarn spotters have basic weather training. They assist NWS by reporting important weather information. This information can be used to help warn the public as quickly as possible about potential severe weather conditions.





Auxiliary Communications Service (**ACS**) is a volunteer based emergency communications program. It provides emergency radio communications during periods of local, regional, or national emergencies, big or small. ACS relies heavily on Amateur Radio, but also included GRMS radio, citizens band, microwave, and digital communications. Contacts are also maintained with REACT, MARS, CAP, and Coast Guard Auxiliary. The ACS program is a follow-up to the former Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Services (**RACES**) program which operated under Civil Defense and is invoked only when the President declares an emergency under the War Powers Act.

The Amateur Radio Emergency Services (**ARES®**) consists of FCC licensed amateurs who have voluntarily registered their qualifications and equipment for communications duty in the public interest, especially when disaster strikes. In addition to supporting emergency management services, ARES also participates in public event activities such as: Parades, Walks (i.e. March of Dimes), Marathons, Bike Events (i.e. MS Bike Tour).

Who are the EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS OPERATORS?

EmComm operators are all **VOLUNTEERS!**

In an emergency, these volunteers come together to work as a **TEAM!**

They utilize their privately owned equipment.

They bring a lot of experience in radio to the field of emergency communications. They are self-sustaining and maintain/fix their own equipment.

Multiple modes are used to communicate:

Voice with Hand-Held radios or mobile/portable radios.

Data communications using paNBEMS

Slow Scan Television (sending pictures via amateur radio)

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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