



SHORELINE AUXILIARY COMMUNICATIONS SERVICE

Shoreline, Washington

RACES Plan

SHORELINE AUXILIARY COMMUNICATIONS SERVICE
City of Shoreline RACES Plan

Shoreline Auxiliary Communications Service

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What is RACES?

The Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) is a special part of the amateur radio operation, sponsored by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). RACES was created in 1952 to provide emergency communications for civil defense preparedness agencies and is governed in FCC Rules and Regulations, Part 97, Subpart E, Section 97.407. Today, RACES is utilized during a variety of emergency or disaster situations where normal governmental communications systems have sustained damage or when additional communications are required. Situations where RACES can be used include natural disasters, technological disasters, terrorist incidents, civil disorder, and nuclear or chemical incidents or attacks.

Introduction

The Shoreline Auxiliary Communications Service (ACS) is an organization of volunteer amateur radio operators who train to provide radio communications for the City of Shoreline and other state and local government agencies during an emergency or disaster. Members of the Shoreline ACS are registered emergency workers in accordance with RCW 38.52 and WAC 118.04, all of whom have passed introductory courses on the National Incident Management System (NIMS) offered by FEMA. The Shoreline ACS team is prepared to respond quickly when requested by the City of Shoreline's Emergency Management Coordinator. If called upon to support government needs, the Shoreline ACS operators automatically become RACES operators.

The Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) is an emergency communications organization coordinated by the American Radio Relay League (ARRL), the primary national organization of amateur radio operators. The Shoreline ACS is recognized by the ARRL as an ARES team and the ACS Team Manager is the ARES Emergency Coordinator (EC) for the City of Shoreline.

Scope

This plan provides guidance for the Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) to support local government officials during certain emergency conditions.

Purpose

This plan is intended to provide coordinated operation between the City of Shoreline, State of Washington government officials and the RACES organization during times when there are extraordinary threats to the safety of life or property. This plan enables agencies and organizations having emergency responsibilities to include the Shoreline ACS - acting as a RACES organization - in local emergency plans and programs.

Operations

This plan becomes official for the City of Shoreline when signed by the city's Emergency Management Coordinator. Under this plan, the Emergency Management Coordinator is empowered to request the use of available volunteer communications facilities and personnel. Acceptance of or participation in this plan shall not be deemed as a relinquishment of license control, and shall not be deemed to prohibit an amateur radio service licensee or broadcast licensee from exercising independent discretion and responsibility in any given situation under the terms of its license.

Authority

Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Title 47, part 97, Subpart E, Section 97.407.

Authentication

The form of authentication that will be used between the activating official and the RACES organization is personal identification or knowledge of the individuals involved .

Identification

The methods used to identify a RACES member and key personnel during a communications support operation are:

- State of Washington Emergency Worker Identification Card issued by the City of Shoreline
- Personal Acquaintance.

Implementation Procedures

Procedures for Government Officials

Upon notification or determination of an emergency condition or situation posing an extraordinary threat to life and/or property, the City of Shoreline Emergency Management Coordinator will contact the RACES Liaison Officer. Unless otherwise noted the Shoreline ACS team manager is designated as the RACES Liaison Officer.

The Emergency Management Coordinator will use the following format when contacting the RACES Liaison Officer: (see contact list in Annex A of this document)

"This is (give name), City of Shoreline Emergency Management Coordinator. I request that the RACES organization be activated for Shoreline, Washington because of (description of emergency situation)."

In order to speed personnel activation during emergency conditions or provide other announcements, an authorized official may contact the King County Operational Area emergency alert system station and request that a public service announcement be made to assist activation of the RACES organization.

Upon cessation of the emergency condition, appropriate government officials will issue a termination notice.

Procedures For Amateur Radio Operators

Upon request by authorized authorities, the designated RACES member(s) will report to the EOC and activate the required emergency nets using the frequencies found in annex B of this document.

RACES members missing a designated assignment by the EOC network control are encouraged to check in at any time.

In the event that amateurs not living within the immediate area offer assistance, they will contact the EOC on the previously established frequencies for assignment and dispatch.

At the cessation of the emergency, authorized officials shall initiate a roll call from the EOC using any one or more of the previously established frequencies. RACES members will then acknowledge and confirm receipt of termination message.

Operational Readiness

Periodic tests will be conducted to ensure operational readiness

Annexes

Annex A: Shoreline ACS Leadership Contact List

Annex B: Lists authorized RACES Radio Frequencies.

Annex C: Functional Block Diagram

Annex D: Local Checklists and Message Forms

Approvals

City of Shoreline Emergency Management Coordinator

Date

Shoreline ACS RACES Officer

Date



Shoreline ACS Leadership Contact List and Phone Tree

Leadership Contact List and Phone Tree Activation List are attached as separate documents to this Annex



List of authorized RACES Radio Frequencies

State EOC	3.985 MHz
King County EOC	52.05 – 54.0 MHz
Local EOC's	145.11 MHz 103.5-
Shoreline Primary Repeater	442.825 MHz 103.5+
Shoreline Secondary Repeater	440.300 MHz 103.5+



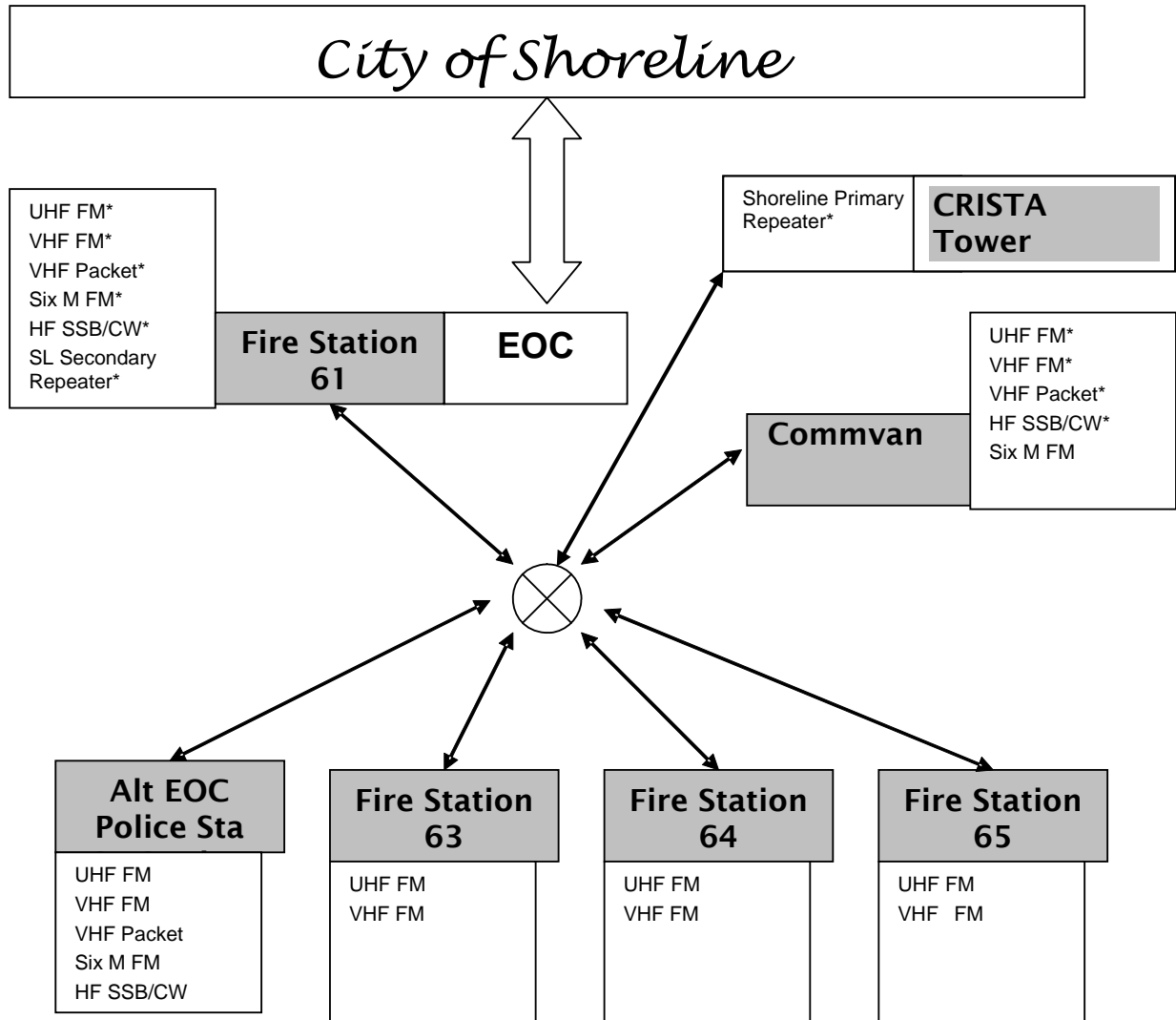
Functional Block Diagram

ACS Amateur Radio Capabilities Available for RACES Support of the City of Shoreline, Washington

Notes/abbreviations used for following diagram:

ACS	Auxiliary Communications Service
Commvan	Communications Van – converted aid vehicle now equipped with amateur radio gear – can be sent to remote sites – normally housed at a Shoreline Fire Station
EOC	City of Shoreline’s Emergency Operations Center – collocated at Fire Station 61
HF SSB/CW	High frequency – usually voice (but can be Morse code) – range of frequencies available to provide local through worldwide communications depending on conditions
Repeater	Shoreline Primary and Secondary Repeaters – automatic repeating station located atop CRISTA radio tower and fire station 61 can rebroadcast UHF FM communications for broader, more consistent coverage.
Six M FM	Very high frequency (around 50 megahertz / 6 meters) – frequency modulated voice communications with local coverage, but signals can “skip” internationally if conditions are right.
UHF FM	Ultra high frequency (around 440 megahertz) – frequency modulated voice communications with local, line of sight coverage
VHF FM	Very high frequency (around 144 megahertz) – frequency modulated voice communications with local, line of sight coverage
VHF Packet	Very high frequency (around 144 megahertz) – digital message format for sending/receiving typed message – straight path local coverage, but connected radio networks span most of US and Canada, plus some overseas.
*	Emergency (generator) power, if commercial power is unavailable.
Note 1	Team members have own radios (handy talkies” or vehicle-mounted) to provide additional personal/portable communications. These can operate from several hours to several days on available battery power.

Amateur Radio Capabilities Diagram:





Local Checklists and Message forms

Insert reproducible copies of local checklists and message forms in this annex