



Bergen County
Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Services
(BC-RACES)
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MISSION STATEMENT

Bergen County Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (BC-RACES) under the authority of the Code of Federal Regulations (47 CFR 97.407—see excerpt in Appendix A attached) and the Bergen County Office of Emergency Management (BCOEM), the NJ State R.A.C.E.S. Plan, as well as Bergen County Freeholder Resolutions as applicable, was established on or about April 12, 1974. BC-RACES will continue to maintain the leadership and organizational infrastructure necessary to provide amateur radio communications in support of, and under the local command and authority of, the BCOEM, while maintaining a skilled, qualified organization of BCOEM/ BC-RACES certified volunteers. When activated by the BCOEM in the event of an emergency or specified training, event, drill, or exercise, BC-RACES may: (a) supplement the public communications infrastructure through high quality communications; (b) provide back-up communications to designated agencies until normal communications are restored; (c) provide a viable response to local or county communication system outages or overloads; (d) provide backup civil defense communications services; (e) assist government officials in the protection of life and property by providing accurate communications in a timely manner; (f) provide radio communication for civil preparedness purposes only, during periods of local, regional or national civil emergencies or natural disasters, such as fires, floods, tornadoes, and man-made disasters to include acts of terrorism and war; (g) provide operations which involve emergency message handling on Amateur Radio Service frequencies that typically involve messages between critical locations such as hospitals, emergency services, emergency shelters, and any other locations where such communication is needed; and (h) provide communications and/or other assistance where required and/or as assigned by the BCOEM or State of NJ Office of Emergency Management to aid in accomplishing their mission(s) in areas such as public-safety, or other government communications and emergency radio/wireless equipment operations and repair.

Is/ Lt. Matthew J. Tiedemann, CEM
Lt. Matthew J. Tiedemann, CEM
County Coordinator
Bergen County Office of Emergency Management

Appendix A

CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS CHAPTER 47 SECTION 97.407

§97.407 Radio amateur civil emergency service.

(a) No station may transmit in RACES unless it is an FCC-licensed primary, club, or military recreation station and it is certified by a civil defense organization as registered with that organization. No person may be the control operator of an amateur station transmitting in RACES unless that person holds a FCC-issued amateur operator license and is certified by a civil defense organization as enrolled in that organization.

(b) The frequency bands and segments and emissions authorized to the control operator are available to stations transmitting communications in RACES on a shared basis with the amateur service. In the event of an emergency which necessitates invoking the President's War Emergency Powers under the provisions of section 706 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, 47 U.S.C. 606, amateur stations participating in RACES may only transmit on the frequency segments authorized pursuant to part 214 of this chapter.

(c) An amateur station registered with a civil defense organization may only communicate with the following stations upon authorization of the responsible civil defense official for the organization with which the amateur station is registered:

- (1) An amateur station registered with the same or another civil defense organization; and
- (2) A station in a service regulated by the FCC whenever such communication is authorized by the FCC.

(d) All communications transmitted in RACES must be specifically authorized by the civil defense organization for the area served. Only civil defense communications of the following types may be transmitted:

(1) Messages concerning impending or actual conditions jeopardizing the public safety, or affecting the national defense or security during periods of local, regional, or national civil emergencies;

(2) Messages directly concerning the immediate safety of life of individuals, the immediate protection of property, maintenance of law and order, alleviation of human suffering and need, and the combating of armed attack or sabotage;

(3) Messages directly concerning the accumulation and dissemination of public information or instructions to the civilian population essential to the activities of the civil defense organization or other authorized governmental or relief agencies; and

(4) Communications for RACES training drills and tests necessary to ensure the establishment and maintenance of orderly and efficient operation of the RACES as ordered by the responsible civil defense organization served. Such drills and tests may not exceed a total time of 1 hour per week. With the approval of the chief officer for emergency planning in the applicable State, Commonwealth, District or territory, however, such tests and drills may be conducted for a period not to exceed 72 hours no more than twice in any calendar year.