

Schuylkill County Amateur Radio Emergency Service

(ARES) is a volunteer radio communications service available to Federal, state, county and local governments, as well as non-profit organizations. We have been adopted by the Schuylkill County Emergency Management Agency (EMA) to provide backup emergency communications for Schuylkill County.

Amateur Radio is:

More than 700,000 radio operators licensed by the Federal Communications Commission. Amateur Radio is not Citizen's Band (CB) radio.



Communications provided may be in the form of voice, Radioteletype, television, computer modes or even morse code. Our volunteers are proficient in their equipment capable of communicating in ranges that vary from next door to the other side of the world.

Our communications don't rely on a complicated infrastructure that can fail when needed the most. Amateur radio operators have demonstrated in countless emergencies their proficiency and determination in getting messages through...no matter what!

How can amateur radio assist your agency or non-profit organization?

In a variety of ways!

Do you, or agencies within your organization, need to divert routine communications away from operational or tactical radio channels during an emergency? Does your agency need an organized back-up communications link that can be called into action if your usual communications links become overloaded or disrupted? Are you in need of reliable interagency communications during emergencies? If so, volunteer amateur radio operators can fill the gap



Are the services provided by amateur radio operators expensive?

Services are provided on a strictly volunteer basis at no charge to you. Federal Communications Commission rules strictly prohibit compensation of any kind for services rendered by amateur radio operators.



Where would amateur radio operators fit into your plans?

Amateur radio operators realize their role is communications- Not to make your decisions. Your ARES **Emergency Coordinator** might be considered your volunteer communications consultant.

Schuylkill County ARES volunteers have been utilized in the floods of 1972 and 2006, search and rescue operations, 911 service outages and numerous public service events such as parades and health and welfare message relays. The dedicated amateur radio operators of Schuylkill County have professionally performed duties such as disaster assessors, radiological monitors and severe weather spotters...serving multifunctional roles above using radios.