



San Benito County Amateur Radio Association

I am a new ham radio operator... which path do I take to become active?

- Emergency Services
- Public Service
- Hobbyist
- Experimenter
- Contester

I want to serve in Public Service and Emergency Services... Do I join the ARES team or the RACES team?

Join the ARES team. ARES is the civilian volunteer part of the radio service. ACS/RACES is a government volunteer part of the radio service. In San Benito County, ACS/RACES members must be vetted, acknowledged to be responsible and have good radio skills, and sworn volunteer of the county government. This is something you may strive for but you'll have to learn and prove your skills under the ARES team.

What type of ham radios responders are involved in public service events or emergency scenes?

SUV
Spontaneous Unaffiliated
Volunteer

(Ham radio volunteer not
registered with an
ARES, ACS or ARES
group.)



Level 1 Responder / ARES
Volunteer



Level 2 Responder /
ACS/RACES Volunteer



What is an EC, DEC, EOC or RACES Officer?

Let's break this down to categories

ARES: Amateur Radio Emergency Service under ARRL: American Radio Relay League



Area	Management	Emergency Coordination	Local Example
Division	DM: Division Manager		Pacific Division
Section	SM: Section Manager <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ASM: Assistant SM • OOC: Official Observer Coordinator • TC: Technical Coordinator • ACC: Affiliated Club Coordinator • PIC: Public Information Coordinator • SGL: State Government Liaison 	SEC: Section Emergency Coordinator <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ASEC: Assistant SEC 	SCV: Santa Clara Valley Section
Division		DEC: District Emergency Coordinator <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ADEC: Assistant DEC 	San Benito County Division
		EC: Emergency Coordinator <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AEC: Assistant EC 	City of Hollister

ACS: Auxiliary Communication Service / RACES: Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service under San Benito County Office of Emergency Services

- Chief ACS/RACES Officer
 - Assistant Chief ACS/RACES Officer
 - ACS/RACES Officers
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Operation Centers

- NMAC: National Multi-Agency Coordination Group (or MAC Federal)
 - NICC: National Interagency Coordination Center (Federal)
 - NIFC: National Interagency Fire Center (Federal)
 - IMT: Incident Management Team (Federal)
 - SOC: State Operations Center (State)
 - REOC: Regional Emergency Operations Center (Regional-Pacific or Northern)
 - EOC: Emergency Operations Center (County - San Benito County - XBE)
 - DOC: Department Operations Center
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You can find the list of current emergency team volunteers with this group [here](#).

What do I do in an EMERGENCY?

1. Take care of your immediate family and those around you. Do not be a victim yourself and make sure your loved ones are OK
 2. Do not self deploy yourself - Ham operators are NOT first responders in their ham radio role
 3. Call into a resource net either on the N6SBC repeater or the calling frequency of 146.520
 4. Await directions and orders as to what to do
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