

Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Services - R.A.C.E.S

So you have an interest in emergency communication. Maybe you are a trained Severe Weather Storm Spotter and want to be able to do more. Maybe you are involved in ARES and want to stay on the air in an emergency when only the RACES authorized stations can continue to transmit information.

Then you should pursue obtaining a RACES card.

RACES is a radio service of amateur stations for civil defense communications during periods of local, regional or national civil emergencies. RACES communications normally involve national defense or the immediate safety of people and property, or other communications authorized by the civil defense organization.

Here is how to become RACES authorized.

You need to take five on-line training courses offered by FEMA. There is no cost to these courses and they take only a few hours each.

Go to the following web page on the FEMA web site.

<http://www.fema.gov/emergency/nims/NIMSTrainingCourses.shtm>

You will land on FEMA's NIMS Training web page. There are four courses shown in bold on the list below copied from the NIMS Training web page. Be sure to print and save the email notification of course completion and the course completion certificate.

Emergency Management Institute

NIMS-related courses offered online by EMI include:

- **IS-100.a - Introduction to the Incident Command System**
- IS-100.HC - Introduction to the Incident Command System for Healthcare/Hospitals
- IS-100.LEa - Introduction to the Incident Command System for Law Enforcement
- IS-100.PWa - Introduction to the Incident Command System for Public Works Personnel
- IS-100.SCa - Introduction to the Incident Command System for Schools
- **IS-200.a - ICS for Single Resources and Initial Action Incidents**
- IS-200.HC - Applying ICS to Healthcare Organizations
- **IS-701 - NIMS Multiagency Coordination System**
- IS-702 - NIMS Public Information Systems
- IS-703 - NIMS Resource Management
- IS-706 - NIMS Intrastate Mutual Aid, An Introduction
- **IS-800.B - National Response Framework, An Introduction**

There is one additional course, called IS-22, "An in-depth Guide to Citizen Preparedness." It can be found at the following web address.

<http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/is22.asp>

Again, remember to save and print the completion email and certificate.

When the five courses are complete, there is a oath of office to sign, a criminal history form, and a waiver authorizing a background check by the Berrien County Sheriff.

Here is a handy checklist.

RACES Certification Checklist

Item	Date Completed
IS-100.a - Introduction to the Incident Command System	
IS-200.a - ICS for Single Resources and Initial Action Incidents	
IS-701 – NIMS Multiagency Coordination System	
IS-800.B - National Response Framework, An Introduction	
IS-22, "An in-depth Guide to Citizen Preparedness"	
Berrien County Emergency Management RACES Loyalty Oath	
Berrien County Emergency Management Release of Information	
Berrien County Emergency Management Criminal History Check	
Course completion Certificates and Berrien County Emergency Management Forms completed and given to Tom Dummer, KC8MGD	
Have photograph taken for RACES and FireTrax ID cards	
Receive official Berrien County lanyard	