

Medical Services Team Team-Specific Training Recommendations

Several committees within the Washington State Emergency Management Association, and the ARES Western Washington Section, are beginning to discuss uniform training requirements for volunteers, particularly the amateur radio operators in A.R.E.S and R.A.C.E.S. In addition, to the basic skills being discussed, team-specific training is necessary, in order to carry out the various missions of the teams.

Basic training for all radio emergency responders includes:

- ARRL Emergency Communications course – Level I
- Basic Incident Command System
- Basic Traffic-handling – Net Procedures
- Basic First Aid & CPR

The leadership team of the W. Washington ARES Medical Services Communications Team proposes that the following topics should be presented to the “urban” oriented radio volunteers on the Medical Services Team.

- Introduction to the Hospital/Medical Environment
- HIPAA Training & certification (mandatory Privacy Law familiarization)
- Introduction to Medical Radio Systems and Communications
- Orientation to Emergency Management agencies/systems/operations
- Introduction to HEICS (the Hospital Emergency Incident Command System)
- Introduction to MCI and START systems (Mass Casualty Incident and Simple Triage with Rapid Transport)
- Introduction to Critical Incident Stress Awareness and the Causes of Traumatic Stress
- Introduction to Personnel, Resource Acquisition and Patient Transportation in a Disaster Environment
- Basic & Intermediate Helicopter Awareness in the Urban Environment
- Introduction to Damage Assessment techniques (ATC-20, USAR, Red Cross)
- Personal Protection and Preparedness for the Volunteer Disaster Worker
- First Aid/CPR/Blood-borne Pathogens
- Tactical Communications and Net Control Operations
- NIMS – IS-700 National Incident Management System Awareness Level (added Mar. 2005)
- WMD – Weapons of Mass Destruction Awareness Level (added Mar 2005)

Other relevant and interesting topics will be added later on.

We believe that the Medical Services Team is a regional team and that we are registered as State Emergency workers, not assigned to a specific county or city jurisdiction. However, there is no mechanism available, at the present time, for volunteer registration at a level higher than the counties. This is an issue we will continue to pursue. We believe that it is extremely important for volunteer workers to be registered as Emergency Workers, before an incident occurs. This will provide liability protection for the volunteers during any authorized training or emergency mission assignment. The City of Seattle has agreed to register King County Medical Services Team as a unit, regardless of a team member's residence in King County. Other counties will need to register their MST Team members under their jurisdiction.