

Basic & Advanced Training Programs and Resources

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One of the best parts of basic individual training is that you as a training officer or EC don't need to do it yourself. It already exists. However, not everyone will be willing to do on-line courses for any number of reasons, including lack of adequate access to the Internet.

ARECC Basic is:

Best taken on-line with a mentor.

Can be done as a classroom or home self-study course.

If the test isn't taken officially with ARRL in some fashion, a national certificate won't be issued.

Alternatives can be created or found, but they must be approved by me to ensure real equivalency. Some so-called basic emcomm courses available on the Internet are incomplete or may promote non-standard approaches for reasons peculiar to the author.

IS-100a, Introduction to the Incident Command System, can be taken as a free online course, but it's not really suitable for a dialup connection.

An alternative is to take it in a classroom when offered by a local fire department or emergency management agency. It may be even be possible to get a session just for ARES members if you have enough people.

There are also several other versions of the IS-100 course, tailored for law enforcement, schools, and hospitals. I don't recommend taking any of those unless you have direct involvement with those types of agencies. The fire service model is the one we are most likely to be involved with.

ARECC Advanced:

College level ARES management course under development by ARRL. Will include a number of FEMA IS courses and lots of writing. Must be taken on-line, no alternatives expected.

Resources for Other Training:

- NH-ARES website (put it on screen and walk through it section by section)
- ARRL website (PSCM, NTS, Net Directory, FCC Rules, ARES logos and store)

- Books:
 - ARRL Emergency Communications Handbook
 - ARRL Power for Emergency Communications
 - ARRL Antenna Handbook
 - ARRL ARECC Basic Emcomm textbook

- FEMA's Emergency Management Institute Independent Study Courses
 - Huge variety, depending on your needs and interests.
 - Recommend: IS700 Intro to NIMS; IS200.a ICS for Single Resources; IS317 Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT); IS775 EOC Operations

- Guest speakers:
 - Generator safety – Tom Richardson
 - Various ARES-specific subjects – Section staff, local members, members from other ARES groups.
 - Specialized modes and techniques – Local club members/experts
 - Agency topics – agency staff
 - CPR, first aid & safety – Red Cross, Heart Assoc., hospitals