

# **Amateur Radio Emergency Communications in Idaho**

## **Rationale for Standardized Badging and Training**

### **Standardized Badging:**

#### **General Information**

- Each “Badged” Amateur Radio Operator will carry only one badge or ID card for Emergency Communications in the state of Idaho. (This eliminates the problem of “Badge Junkies” who hold Badges from multiple agencies, and might be double-counted as resources).
- The Standardized Badge or ID card would be recognized by all Served Agencies in the state. This allows the deployment of Mutual Assistance Teams (MAT’s) around the state, if needed.

#### **Badge Mechanics**

- Each Badge application will originate at a recognized ARES or RACES Communication Unit around the state. The Badge application with an accompanying photo will be forwarded to a Central Issuing Agency (possibly Idaho BHS). For control purposes, Idaho ARES and RACES leadership will provide the Central Issuing Agency with lists of recognized Emergency Communications units, along with the name of the local leadership official; and will update the list whenever changes occur.
- The Badged Amateur Radio Operator will have satisfactory results from a background check (administered by the Central Issuing Agency). This ensures unbiased background checks, and might result in reduced cost for the Central Issuing Agency because of the economy of scale.
- The Badged Amateur Radio Operator must have also completed minimum ARES or RACES training requirements, as specified in the Standardized Training Section of this document.
- The “Standard Badge” will be a durable plastic card (similar to a driver’s license) that includes “Amateur Radio Operator”, issue and expiration dates, and “ARES” or “RACES”, along with a picture and physical description of the holder.

#### **Badge Life and Renewal**

- The current vision is that the physical Standard Badge would have a “finite life”, expiring on the date when the Amateur Radio Operator’s license expires (an absolute maximum of ten years).

- The Standard Badge Status will be reviewed annually, by the local leadership official (ARES Emergency Coordinator or RACES Radio Officer) at the recognized ARES or RACES Communication Unit around the state. This process involves an examination of the Badge holder's participation/performance over the past year; and an interview with the Badge holder to determine that he has continuing interest and that his mental state is satisfactory to continue service as an ARES or RACES member.
- Upon satisfactory completion of the annual review, the Badge will be updated by affixing a small colored "Dot" (similar to the annual sticker update for automobile license plates). The "Dot" color or shape will change every year, and the "Dots" will be centrally controlled by the Central Issuing Agency.

## **Standardized Training:**

### **General Information**

- Idaho Amateur Radio operators who participate in Emergency Communications are held to high training standards. While these standards may vary between Served Agencies (County Offices of Emergency Management), a general standard has been agreed upon at a statewide level, as follows:
  1. "Basic" Training – Local Served Agency training, BHS / FEMA ICS-100, ICS-700, ARRL EC-01
  2. "Advanced" Training – Basic Training plus BHS / FEMA ICS-200, ICS-800
  3. "Senior" Training – Advanced Training plus BHS / FEMA ICS-300, ICS-400, COM-L, COM-T, ARRL EC-016

### **Rationale**

- The Rationale for requiring this training commitment is as follows:
  1. Ensures that the Amateur Radio Operator is committed to the program
  2. Ensures the Central Issuing Agency for Standardized Badges that their time and money was well spent