

Welcome RACES/ARES Volunteer,

Although we are seldom called to duty in an actual emergency, the service we provide could easily be of critical importance should a real incident occur. Being a readily available and reliable resource is what we prepare for.

In this new day of uncertain identities and motives it is also important to know who you can count on. RACES (Radio Amateur Community Emergency Service) operators are screened, trained, and equipped to meet the challenge.

To begin your tour of service you will need to qualify by:

- 1) Completing three FEMA , ICS online courses **(make copies of each certificate)**
- 2) Completing the **Application for Operator Credentials**
- 3) Completing the **Twin Falls County Special Identification Card Authorization**
- 4) Submitting these materials along with a **copy of your FCC License**, to the RACES/ARES Liason Officer who will forward them to the County Emergency Services Manager for final approval
- 5) Upon return of your approved application, go to the Twin Falls County Dept. of Motor Vehicles to complete the photo ID process. Your completed ID card, which looks similar to your driver's license, will be mailed to you.

Preparing your equipment and personal support gear, taking a turn as a Net Control Operator, as well as, practicing the techniques of Message Logging and handling will make your operation easier and more reliable. We'll work together on these items in upcoming drills and practice sessions.

Being available to support your community in times of critical need is an admirable undertaking which is not to be taken lightly. Often you might find it challenging to be away from your home and family right when it seems they might need you most. Rest assured your service will not be requested without good cause but will be appreciated by a grateful community and you will be returned to your family just as quickly as circumstances permit.

Thanks for making yourself and your equipment available.

*Terry Fletcher*

RACES / ARES Liaison Officer, Magic Valley Amateur Radio Club