



CENTRALIA AMATEUR RADIO EMERGENCY SERVICES TEAM

SEPTEMBER, 2015

Amateur Radio is a hobby... Amateur Radio Emergency Services is a commitment!

Centralia Helicopter Landing Zone Article Featured In ARES E-Letter

Thanks to ARRL ARES E-Letter editor Rick Palm for publishing an article we submitted after our helicopter landing zone drill in May with Riverside Fire Authority. The ARES E-Letter is published by the ARRL HQ and goes out to almost 40,000 Amateur Radio Emergency Services members nationwide each month. Rick praised our training efforts saying they were inspirational for other ARES groups around the country. Thanks, Rick!



Walmart Visit

During the first week in September, AEC Lyle Olmsted and EC Bob Willey visited Walmart to solicit donations to build a fund for future equipment needs and deployment expenses. Centralia ARES along with other Western Washington ARES teams are a tax deductible entity. We'll know in a few weeks how we did.

Wildland Fire Deployment Update Information

As of mid - September, the fire situation in Eastern Washington has calmed somewhat. We also have had the opportunity to learn more about what we would need to do prior to an active deployment. Lack of information from and about the ARES groups within the fire area is still most frustrating but we continue to monitor incoming deployment requests. We'll keep you informed as more information becomes available.

Communications Workshop 9/14/15

Emergency Coordinator Bob Willey attended the Communications Workshop, presented at the Thurston County Emergency Communications Center on September 14th. The District 3 counties were represented as guest speakers gave presentations on amateur radio, public safety and military communications capabilities.

Topics also included lessons learned at the SR 520 landslide, the Carlton Complex Fire in Eastern Washington last year and the Evergreen Tremor Exercise conducted with Mason County and the Washington National Guard. Several sessions were specific to amateur radio and the role it plays both inside the EOC and within the community during and after an area wide disaster.

Thurston County
Emergency
Communications Center



Comm I As Mobile EOC

August 3rd Disaster Drill

Following closely on the heels of our July earthquake drill, our first drill in August concentrated on disaster communications. The PD's large comm van was established on the west side of Centralia as a mobile Emergency Operations Center. While we have a capable EOC at City Hall and even an alternate EOC at RFA station #2 on Harrison Avenue, one or both could potentially be compromised in the event of a significant earthquake or other natural disaster. Being trained to use Comm I as a mobile EOC provides yet another layer of communications redundancy for the city and our served agencies.

We then set up the ARES van, Comm II, on the east side of the freeway as a communications forward staging area. The rest of the team were assigned our mobile emergency shelter radios and practiced setting those up and testing communications between the two vans and the shelters.

This drill also gave us the opportunity to continue our team training on Comm II familiarization. By the time we are done, each team member must be capable of deploying Comm II, setting it up and working all its radio systems. The only flaw in the August 3rd drill was a radio failure in Comm I but overall, everything went well.

August 18th Lost Child Search Drill

For the August 18th training drill, the team revisited their lost child search plan. Briefing included a discussion on search patterns, psychology of a lost child, how to approach lost children and a safety briefing. The scenario stated two sets of two kids each left a location at First and M Street in Centralia and have failed to return to their homes. Parents, now worried, called police who activated the ARES team for an active search.

One group of children were placed at a small local neighborhood park. The other group were located at a church parking lot about eight blocks distance.

Each group was accompanied by a guardian adult who made sure they were safe and EC Bob Willey was in constant cell phone contact with both groups. Team members were required to be wearing their yellow ARES vests and Identification if they were to contact the children.

The ARES team broke up the large 360 degree search area into small assigned search zones and began the drill.

Over the next hour, seven search teams located one or both of the lost children groups. The kids loved their role and were rewarded with a certificate of appreciation and Dairy Queen ice cream at the end of the drill.

Coincidentally, a search for a lost child who failed to return home after Halloween evening with friends was our team's very first activation many years ago. Good job everyone!

September is National Preparedness Month!

During this month, you have received daily preparedness tips specifically designed for the Centralia ARES team.

Have these tips been useful to you?

October is just around the corner and we're working on several fun projects. A new information booklet about Centralia ARES has just been completed and we will be working with Teresa to see if we can get it up on the K7CEM.com website. Painting for Comm II and licensing for our communications trailer haven't happened yet but we have asked Chief Nielsen for help to make those projects happen. I've got a couple of simple go-bag kits to show you in a future mtg.



Teresa Haymaker, N4MBA, and Linc Haymaker, K0ZCO pose with their "lost children", Sophie and Jack, now no longer lost.



James Van Ornum, AE7TF with Emily and Will

Dates To Remember!

Next Meeting: Monday, Sept. 21st in the EOC. Net at 6:15pm, Mtg. at 6:30pm

Brunch, Brunch, Brunch!
Thursday, September 24th
Judy's Country Kitchen 10:30am