

What Is RACES?

Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service

RACES is a service provided by certified volunteer amateur radio operators within government civil defense agencies in times of extraordinary need.

RACES is administrated by a local county, or state civil defense agency responsible for disaster services. In our case YC EMA. Emergency communications do not fall under RACES rules unless specifically activated as RACES.

RACES operations involve emergency communication on amateur radio frequencies, typically between critical locations such as hospitals, emergency services, emergency shelters, and any other locations where communication is needed. These communications are handled in any mode available, with 2 meters FM being the most prevalent.

RACES is regulated by the FCC Part 97, Subpart E, §97.407.

<https://www.qsl.net/races/fcc.html>

RACES may become the only communications allowed via amateur radio during time of war if the President were to exercises war emergency powers.

York County Emergency Communication Team is comprised of civil defense volunteers certified and directed by the York County Emergency Management Agency located in Alfred, Maine.

