

LOGISTICS

Uniforms & Equipment

1 Purpose

This document describes the clothing and equipment requirements for MC ARES members.

2 Scope

This procedure applies to clothing and equipment used while performing emergency communications duties in support of a served agency.

3 Uniforms & Equipment

The way we dress and equip ourselves is a reflection of our professionalism and our capabilities. As emergency communicators, we may find ourselves working alongside paid uniformed professionals and we want to instill confidence in them that despite our volunteer status, the services that we provide nothing but professional

3.1 Uniforms

While MC ARES does not currently have an official uniform, members are expected to dress appropriately for the situation and are asked to remember that they are representing MC ARES to the public. At no time should members wear clothing with slogans, emblems pictures or other symbols that are considered offensive or inappropriate. MC ARES leadership has the authority and discretion to determine what is offensive or inappropriate.

3.1.1 Meeting and Gatherings

Members are encouraged to wear comfortable clothing to meetings and gathering that is clean and neat. Remember that we often have visitors and guest speakers so we want to make a good first impression.

3.1.2 Drills and Activations

Members should be prepared for various weather and working conditions when responding to drills and activations.

3.1.3 Identification Badge

Members should wear and prominently display their MC ARES identification badges while participating in a MC ARES activity or when representing the organization.

3.2 Equipment

MC ARES members are required to acquire and maintain their own communication equipment and supplies to support their role in the organization.

3.2.1 Minimum Equipment

All MC ARES members are required to have:

- VHF Handheld radio, 5W min. (with PL tone capability, sometimes referred to as CTCSS)
- At least one extra battery for the radio

3.2.2 Recommended Equipment

- Dual band (VHF/UHF) HT or separate UHF radio
- Portable, lightweight “gain” antenna for radio (J-pole, whip, small yagi, etc...)
- Reflective vest

3.2.3 Optional Equipment

- APRS tracking equipment
- Portable HF radio and antennas
- Portable computer (for packet, Winlink, APRS tracking, etc...)
- Emergency power source (12V battery, solar cells, generator, etc...)
- Portable masts

3.2.4 Go-kits

Members should keep all equipment ready and available for use at all times. Everyone is encouraged to assemble a “go-kit” to support immediate deployment [LOG 4-2 Go-kit].

3.3 References

LOG 4-2 Go-kit

4 Safety

As an emergency communicator, you may find yourself working around knobs, towers, cords and other items that could catch clothing. Avoid loose clothing or clothing with loops and straps whenever possible. Always use caution when erecting masts and antennas around power lines!

5 Abbreviations and Terms

APRS	Automatic Position Reporting System
CTCSS	Continuous Tone-Coded Squelch System
Gain	A measure of the relative effectiveness of an antenna over a theoretic isotropic reference antenna, typically measured in Dbi.
HF	High Frequency
HT	“Handy-Talkie.” Slang for a handheld radio
PL	“Private Line.” Motorola trademark for a method of selectively activating a repeater by using a sub-audible tone.
UHF	Ultra High Frequency
VHF	Very High Frequency

6 Related Documents and Information

LOG 4-2 Go-kit

Revision History

REV	DATE	DESCRIPTION	AUTHOR - CALL
0	9 Sept 2007	Initial publication.	Emergency Plan Team
1	16 July 2021	Correct typographical error (potable to portable).	Michael J. Bowen – kc2btw