Santa Clara County Mutual Aid Communicator Program

September 7, 2017 Judy Halchin KK6EWQ

Topics

- What is the MAC program?
- What do I need to know to be a MAC?
- How to become a MAC
- Ongoing requirements
- MAC qualifications

What is the MAC program?

- A system designed to facilitate the sharing of emergency communicators among the cities within the county in times of need
- Communicators who would be willing to help other cities and who have signed up beforehand

How does it work?

- A city needs additional radio operators
- The city submits a request to the county (via packet usually)
- The county broadcasts a request for MACs
- Interested MACs get permission from their cities
- MACs check into the county resource net, are given assignments, and are tracked as they travel to the assignments
- MACs perform their assignments and are tracked as they travel home

What sorts of skills do I need?

- How to use and program your radio
- How to operate properly on a directed net
- How to compose and prioritize messages
- How to pass message traffic
- How to use a resource net while travelling to and from your assignment
- How to work with a served agency

How to join (1)

The county needs to know

- that you understand what the MAC program is and how it works
- that you have the appropriate skills, knowledge, and equipment

How to join (2)

- Become a MAC-in-training (MIT)
 How? Ask Jim to make happen
- Read the 'MAC Program Handbook'
- Join the MAC announcements and discussion mailing lists
- Get the required training
 - ICS 100, ICS 200, ICS 700 Online FEMA courses
 - Introduction to Emergency Communications (or equivalent)
 February 10, 2018, 9-12, Cupertino Senior Center
 - Fundamentals of Emergency Communications
 March 17, 2018, 9-12, Cupertino Senior Center

How to join (3)

- Experience
 - No specific requirement
 - Demonstrate your ability to perform an assignment
- Read the 'Performance Standards and Best Practices'
- Get your go-kit ready very similar to the CARES go-kit
- Go through the MAC Candidate Record with Jim
- After the form is submitted and accepted
 - Background check
 - Badge photo

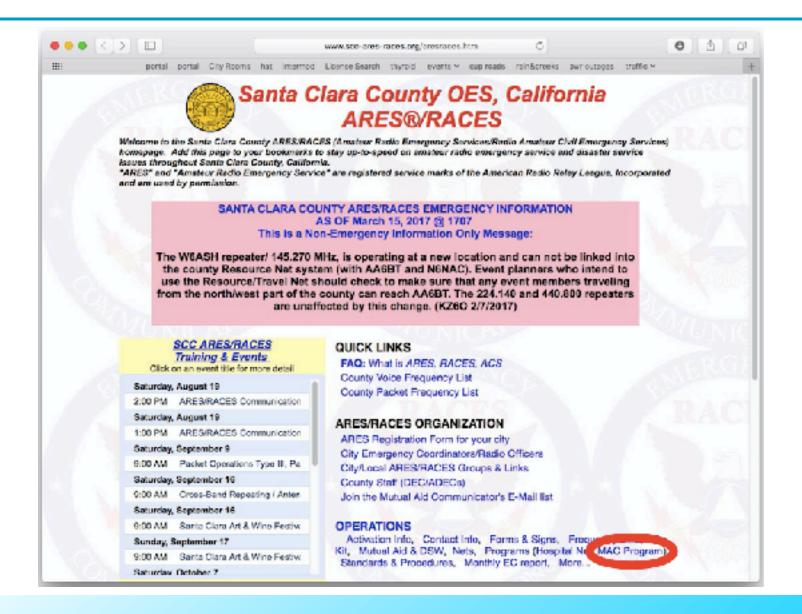
Ongoing requirements

- Participate in 2 county drills (or 1 drill and 1 end-of-year class) every 2 years
- Keep your county DSW renewed every year by verifying your contact information

MAC Qualifications

- Qualifications are optional—no requirement, no pressure
- Qualifications help cities specify the type of assistance they need and can help individuals with goals, progress assessments, and pats on the back
- 4 areas Field Communications, Net Control Operations, Shadow Communications, Packet Operations
- 3 levels for each area
 - Type III independent operator, basic equipment, low-tomedium traffic
 - Type II advanced operator, more than basic equipment, medium-to-high traffic, more complicated assignments
 - Type I specialist, highest traffic levels, planning for complex events and incidents

For more information



Questions?