

YCECT - Mission and Roles

The York County Emergency Communication Team (hereafter YCECT) is open to any licensed Amateur Radio operator with a sincere desire to serve his/her community during a time of need.

YCECT has made commitments to provide Amateur Radio disaster/emergency communications for the York County Emergency Management Agency and will also provide Amateur Radio communications to any City, Town or public service agency within York County in time of emergency, disaster or for public service events.

YCECT is affiliated with R.A.C.E.S. which is organized under the authority of the President's War Emergency Powers Act under the provisions of section 706 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, 47 U.S.C. 606. In a circumstance that falls under President's War Emergency Powers Act only those team members that have been so credentialed by the York County EMA for RACES would be activated.

YCECT- Organization and Responsibilities

- **Relationship building with the Local Emergency Managers/Services before an event.**
- **Recruiting enough volunteers for each locality.**
- **Shelter communications during disasters.**
- **Ability to communicate on both public safety and HAM Bands if authorized by host community.**

YCECT Structure:

- **YCEMA – EC**
- **Leader YCECT**
- **Assistant Leader YCECT**
- **Field Team Leaders**
- **Responders**
- **Trainees**

Membership Requirements

In accordance with FCC guidelines, the only two membership requirements for YCECT are: Possession of a valid FCC Amateur Radio license and a sincere desire to serve the community in times of emergency.

Individuals volunteering their services, and/or their equipment should also meet the following:

- 1) Complete and submit a volunteer application and**
- 2) participate in as many meetings, training sessions, nets, simulated emergency tests, public service events, and emergencies/disasters as time and availability permits.**

In addition to the above, within one year of joining YCECT, new members will complete the following courses.

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- **IS-100 (Introduction to the Incident Command System)**
- **IS-700 (Introduction to the National Incident Management System (NIMS))**
- **Introduction to Emergency Communications ARRL ARECC EC-001 or**
- **The Maine Emergency Communications Course Level 1 or equivalent**

All members of the YCECT leadership will, within one year of their appointment will complete the following courses:

- **IS-200 (Basic Incident Command System)**
- **ARRL ARECC EC-002 or Maine Emergency Communications Course Level 2 or equivalent**

In addition, the YCECT Leader and Assistant YCECT Leader will complete the following:

- **ARRL ARECC EC-003 or the Maine RACES Leadership Course or equivalent**
- **IS-800 (Introduction to the National Response Framework)**
- **(Optional) ICS-300 (Intermediate Incident Command System)**

Certification and Credentialing

Certification of York County Emergency Communications personnel will be made through the YCEMA, YCECT Leader and Assistant YCECT Leader.

Certification will be via the following:

Records of External Training: External training will include those courses taken by the YCECT member from outside sources to include, but not limited to the ARRL, Maine ARRL Section, RACES, the National Weather Service and FEMA Independent Study Courses.

Members will provide copies of all certificates of training to the YCECT Leader and Assistant YCECT Leader who will provide them to the York County Emergency Management Agency (YCEMA) upon request.

Records of Internal Training: Internal training will include those courses offered by YCECT or their served agencies. YCECT will retain a copy of training completed by its members at regular and special meetings.

YCECT members will provide copies of all certificates of training to the YCECT Leader and Assistant YCECT Leader. Credentialing of YCECT personnel will be made through the York County Emergency Management Agency.

Credentialing Levels

- **Trainee** — A new team member with no prior training in emergency communications (Amateur Radio License only)
- **Responder** — Has met all training requirements for the Responder level in YCECT.
- **Leadership** — Has met all training requirements for the Leadership level in YCECT and is RACES credentialed.
- **Management** — Has met all training requirements for the Management level in YCECT and is RACES credentialed.
- **Senior Management** — Has met all training requirements for the Senior Management level in YCECT and is RACES credentialed.

Credentialing of YCECT and RACES members will be via an identification badge issued by the YCECT Leader and/or Assistant YCECT Leader and York County Emergency Management Agency.

Verification of credentialing certifications, training and licenses will be accomplished through the YCECT Leader and/or Assistant YCECT Leader and York County Emergency Management Agency Personnel. Credentialing and certification records will be maintained by YCECT Leader.

Activation Procedures

Any member of YCECT who, for any reason, suspects a communication emergency exists should monitor the 145.410 PL 103.5 repeater for net activity and/or announcements (in case of repeater failure, monitor 147.540 simplex).

If local telephone service is available, the YCECT Leader and Assistant YCECT Leader should be notified by telephone.

In an emergency in which Amateur Radio might serve the community, the YCECT may be alerted by a served agency. Served agencies have the authority to activate YCECT for duty in an emergency.

Self-activation of Emergency Communication team members is discouraged.

Activation Status Levels

The YCECT has adopted seven levels of status to better inform members and teams of impending actions within York County, Maine, and out of state. This will allow members and teams to judge, in an approximate time frame, the extent of the involvement they will be requested to respond to.

Level 0 (Green) — No Operations/Normal. No emergency exists, and members are not required to activate.

Level 1 (Yellow) — Notification of possible activation. This will be a situation advisory and does not mean YCECT will be activated. There will be no time frame attached to this level. Members and teams will be requested to monitor certain nets and frequencies and to update call trees, as required. Members and teams are requested to check all equipment, ready kits and operations plans for possible activation.

Level 2 (Orange) — Notification of probable activation. An approximate time frame will be given with this level. It allows YCECT members an opportunity to take time off from work, rearrange schedules, etc. Definite net times and frequencies will be set, staging areas will be announced, as well as mission details.

Level 3 (Red) — Notification of activation. This will put into motion call trees and nets to coordinate the activation of YCECT members and teams in accordance with prescribed York County procedures.

Level 4 (Blue) — Demobilization. This will put into action the demobilization of YCECT responders after operations have ceased.

SKYWARN — This is a special activation that will be implemented at the request of the National Weather Service to solicit severe weather and damage reports. A SKYWARN net may or may not be called on the York County Emergency Communication primary repeater or simplex frequency at the discretion of the EC. All YCECT members should monitor the daily HWO (Hazardous Weather Outlook) from the NWS for information regarding the need for spotter activation.

RACES - In a circumstance that falls under President's War Emergency Powers Act those team members that have been so credentialed by the York County EMA for RACES would be activated.

Mobilization Procedures

If telephone service is available, a telephone recall/alert will be initiated by the EC and/or AEC(s). Upon awareness or notification that a communications emergency exists, available members of YCECT will call into the York County Emergency Communication NET on the 145.410 PL 103.5 repeater. If, for any reason, the repeater is not in operations, the net will be called on 147.540 simplex.

If telephone service is available, members not having 2-meter capability will call the YCECT Leader or Assistant YCECT Leader and notify him/her of their availability. YCECT members will be advised where to report for duty.

The AEC for Operations will prepare the appropriate ICS forms for YCECT operations during the incident. Copies will be forwarded to the Incident Communications Unit Leader for inclusion into the Incident Communications Plan.

The YCECT Leader or Assistant YCECT Leader or designee will assume net control or designate another station as net control station (NCS). This station (NCS) is designated as a "Key Station" and will be extensively utilized during a communications emergency. Key Stations should have full emergency power capability with relief operators assigned to ensure continuous operations.

