

# **Oneida County**

**RACES (Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service)**



## **SERVICE PLAN FOR THE SUPPORT OF COUNTY GOVERNMENT DURING EMERGENCIES**



## **DEDICATION**

This manual is dedicated to those Amateur Radio Operators and members of the Oneida County Emergency Communicators/Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service organized to establish radio communications with the Emergency Management Jurisdiction in Oneida County and to the District and/or State Control Centers. These Amateur Radio Operators have volunteered their time, energy, knowledge and ability as communicators to serve in time of public safety threats, emergencies, disasters and wherever Emergency Management needs communications.

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# INTRODUCTION

The Oneida County RACES is a reserve that provides the government of Oneida County with a variety of professional unpaid volunteer skills, including administrative, technical and operational, for emergency tactical, administrative and logistical communications, such as with its agencies, cities within the County, neighboring governments and the State Emergency Management Office.

The RACES (Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service) Its mission is to operate and maintain Amateur, Public Safety and other communications systems and to perform unique, accurate and efficient communications services to assist government officials in the protection of life and property. RACES coordinates' mutual aid communications with, other equivalent government Amateur Radio resources, and promotes the effective management and utilization of the Amateur Radio operators and other Federal Communications Commission (FCC) licensees, such as Military Affiliate Radio System (MARS) and Civil Air Patrol (CAP) and (ARES) Amateur Radio Emergency Service and others in support of civil defense/civil preparedness and disaster response recovery.

RACES is administered under the guidance of the Oneida County Emergency Services Director.

The resources of this service are an essential staff resource intended to augment agency and Public Safety communications. No declaration of an emergency is required. However, the use of the FCC Amateur Radio service frequencies is limited to training and emergency communications.

In May 1951, New York State Radio Officer, Vincent T. Kenny, W2BGO, spearheaded the establishment of the Northeast United States Civil Defense Amateur Radio Alliance (USCDARA). In 1955 this group promoted the adoption of a Standard Operating Procedure, channelization of the RACES frequency allocations, uniform message forms, etc.

The Federal Communications Commission established the Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) effective August 15, 1952 to meet the needs of the Federal Civil Defense Administration (FCDA), state and local governments. If ever again there is need to suspend Amateur Radio operation because of a national crisis, RACES will remain on the air serving the needs of the government.

Included within RACES is an area for participation by non-hams. These may include, but is not limited to, Citizen Band REACT organizations, Civil Air Patrol, Boy Scout Explorers, business service groups and civilian volunteers for help in clerical and technical areas. Families are encouraged to participate.

## **PREFACE**

This issue of the Oneida County / RACES service plan is the second revision. Since the inception of RACES, many changes in communications techniques have taken place, both in equipment and procedures. RACES has spanned the days of AM and tubes to Packet and integrated circuits.

## **PURPOSE**

This service plan is intended to provide coordinated operation between the County of Oneida government officials and RACES during times when there are threats to the safety of life and/or property. Maximum benefits can be obtained only through careful planning which identifies the organizations, agencies, individuals, and assigns a definitive role to each. This plan enables agencies and organizations having emergency responsibilities to include the RACES in local emergency plans and programs.

This service plan becomes official for the County of Oneida, New York when signed by the Director of the Oneida County Emergency Services and the Oneida County RACES Radio Officer. Under this plan, the Director of the Oneida County Emergency Services is empowered to request the use of available volunteer communications facilities and personnel. Acceptance of or participation in the plan shall not be deemed as a relinquishment of license control, and shall not be deemed to prohibit an amateur radio service licensee from exercising independent discretion and responsibility in any given situation under terms of its license.

RACES Authority. Part 97 Subpart A, Federal communications Commission Rules and Regulations.

## 1.0 AREAS COVERED

Oneida County faces a variety of threats, both natural and technological, for which it must be prepared to respond. A wide range of potential emergencies has to be considered by emergency services personnel - whether paid or unpaid. Any of these threats could occasion the requirement for qualified emergency communications to assist, supplement, augment or replace existing government facilities. Such threats include:

- Chemical and hazardous material spills and chemical releases that affect the population with both immediate and long-term health hazards.
- Dam failure from natural or man-made causes that can result in extensive damage and potential loss of life in areas that would be affected by the sudden surge of water and debris.
- Large scale transportation accidents that can occur from a variety of causes, including automobiles, buses, military and civil aircraft, trains and other means.
- Earthquakes are notorious natural hazards due to the geologic construction of the state. Earthquakes can cause extensive damage and interruption in public and private facilities, death and destruction to any jurisdiction.
- Severe storms, tornadoes, flash floods can lead to unusual disasters; as can slower rising but devastating floods along river basins and valleys. Icing and snow may be an additional hazard under certain conditions.
- Unusual incidents can arise out of terrorism, urban unrest or mass actions.
- Key economic and industrial centers, such as power facilities, could be targets for nuclear, conventional war or armed aggression that can spill over into other areas.

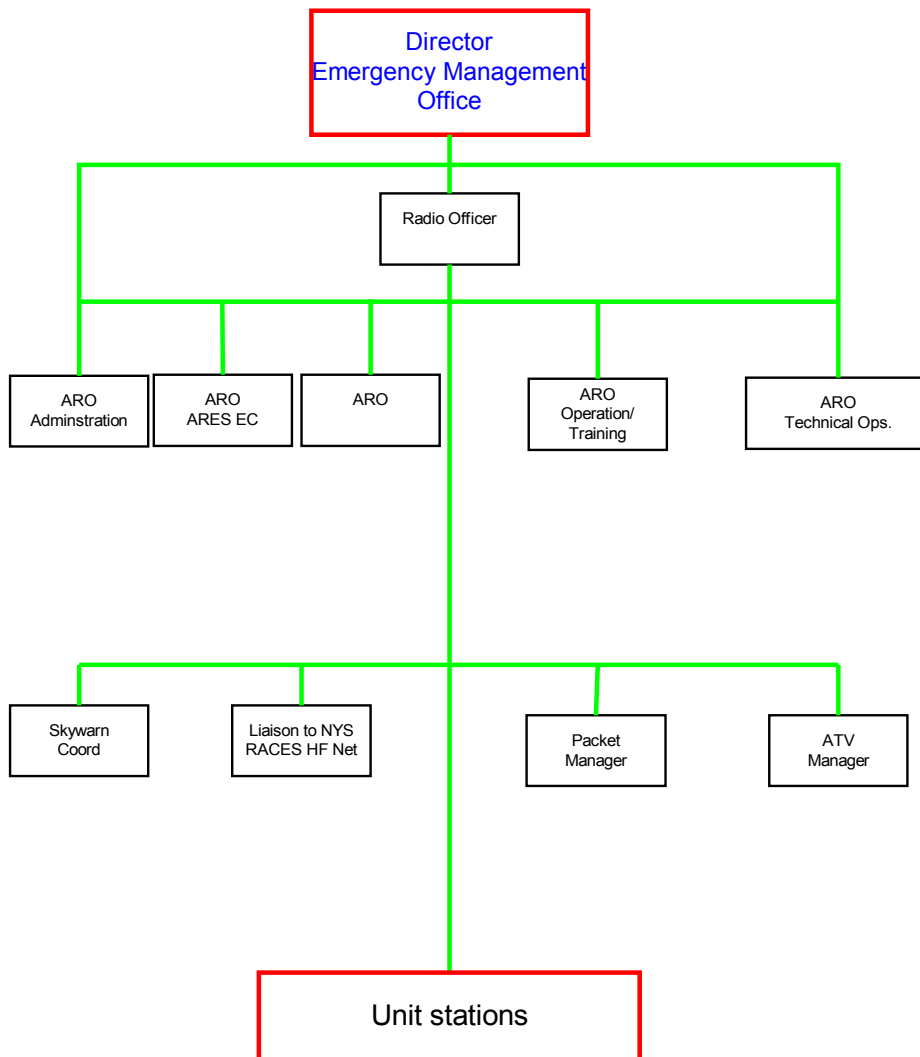
## 2.0 JURISDICTIONS AND AGENCIES COVERED

The jurisdictions covered by this plan are in the County of Oneida and its political subdivisions.

This plan provides for the interaction with emergency planning and response agencies.

## 3.0 RADIO OFFICER AND STAFF ORGANIZATION

The organizational diagram for the implementation and administration of these resources is shown below. Written operational procedures are issued as required and maintained in a separate Standard Operating Procedures manual.



## **4.0 PARTICIPANTS**

RACES members are those participants who partake of the program in an on-going process. Amateur Radio operators and others enrolled under the provisions of this plan shall be registered as Civil Defense workers in accordance with Article 2/B, Section 29b. of the New York State Executive Law. Due to the sensitive nature of the activities of this level of participant, enrollment shall include, if necessary, authorization for verification of loyalty and reliability through appropriate local records checks, as by the Sheriff. These participants are expected to report to their assignments as quickly as possible when assigned.

Convergent volunteers are those participants who are brought in during an emergency and are listed on a separate roster maintained by the Radio Officer.

## **5.0 RESOURCES**

These RACES members are available to all government services/agencies as required, but are not assigned exclusively to any one service. Specific needs for emergency communications using communications volunteers in government service by departments or agencies of this jurisdiction are a part of this service; and are coordinated by the Director of Oneida County Emergency Services. Amateur radio operators are organized to provide communications services.

## **6.0 NETWORKS**

This service operates nets on any one of the following primary frequencies:

Receive 442.100, Mhz Transmit 447.100 Mhz. 103.5hz

Receive 442.575, Mhz Transmit 447.575 Mhz. 103.5hz

Receive 449.925 Mhz Transmit 444.925 Mhz 151.4hz

Receive 145.330 Mhz Transmit 144.730 Mhz 71.9hz

Simplex on 145.56 Mhz. and 446.20 Mhz

3.9935 Mhz LSB New York State RACES Net

In the event of an emergency, which necessitates invoking the President's war emergency powers, RACES will be governed by paragraph 97.407(b) of the FCC Rules and Regulations. Operations will be restricted to frequencies assigned and coordinated by the State Emergency Management Office.

## **7.0 EQUIPMENT RESOURCES**

There are fixed, portable, and mobile stations under the provisions of this plan. The majority of the equipment is owned and operated by individual participants, while some is provided by the government. All networks will be available for use at any time necessary.

## 8.0 IMPLEMENTATION PROCEDURES

Authentication: The form of authentication that will be used between the activating official and the RACES organization is personal identification or knowledge of the individuals involved.

Upon notification of an emergency condition or situation posing a threat to life and/or property, the Director of Oneida County Emergency Services or a designated representative will contact the Radio Officer or designated alternate. *See Annexes A and B.*

Note: In order to speed personnel activation during emergency conditions or to provide other announcements, an authorized Oneida County Official may request that a public service announcement be made to assist activation of the RACES organization.

The following format will be used when contacting the RACES Radio Officer:

"This is (name and title) of the Oneida County Emergency Services. I request that RACES be activated for Oneida County because of (description of emergency situation)."

This service is a COMMUNICATION resource covered by the master mutual aid agreement for Oneida County and the State of New York. Requests from or to Oneida County for assistance (mutual aid) are to be directed to the Director of Oneida County Emergency Services or a designated representative.

In the event that assistance is offered by Amateur Radio operators not registered with Oneida County, they should contact the net control station for assignment and dispatch

At the cessation of the emergency, authorized officials shall contact the Radio Officer or designee to terminate the response. A role call will be initiated and all RACES members will acknowledge and confirm receipt of the termination message.

## 9.0 TESTS

Tests of the systems include on the air meetings and drills as required. The State Wide Link System will be used to make contact with the New York State EOC in Albany and any other Counties needing or offering assistance during an emergency or disaster.

## 10.0 REVIEW

This plan, and its appendices, shall be reviewed for completeness, currency, and accuracy not later than three (3) years after the latest approval date. Revisions and corrections will be issued to all plan holders.

This has been reviewed and approved by the following authorities for use by RACES and for inclusion in the Oneida County Emergency Services Plan.

NAME

DATE

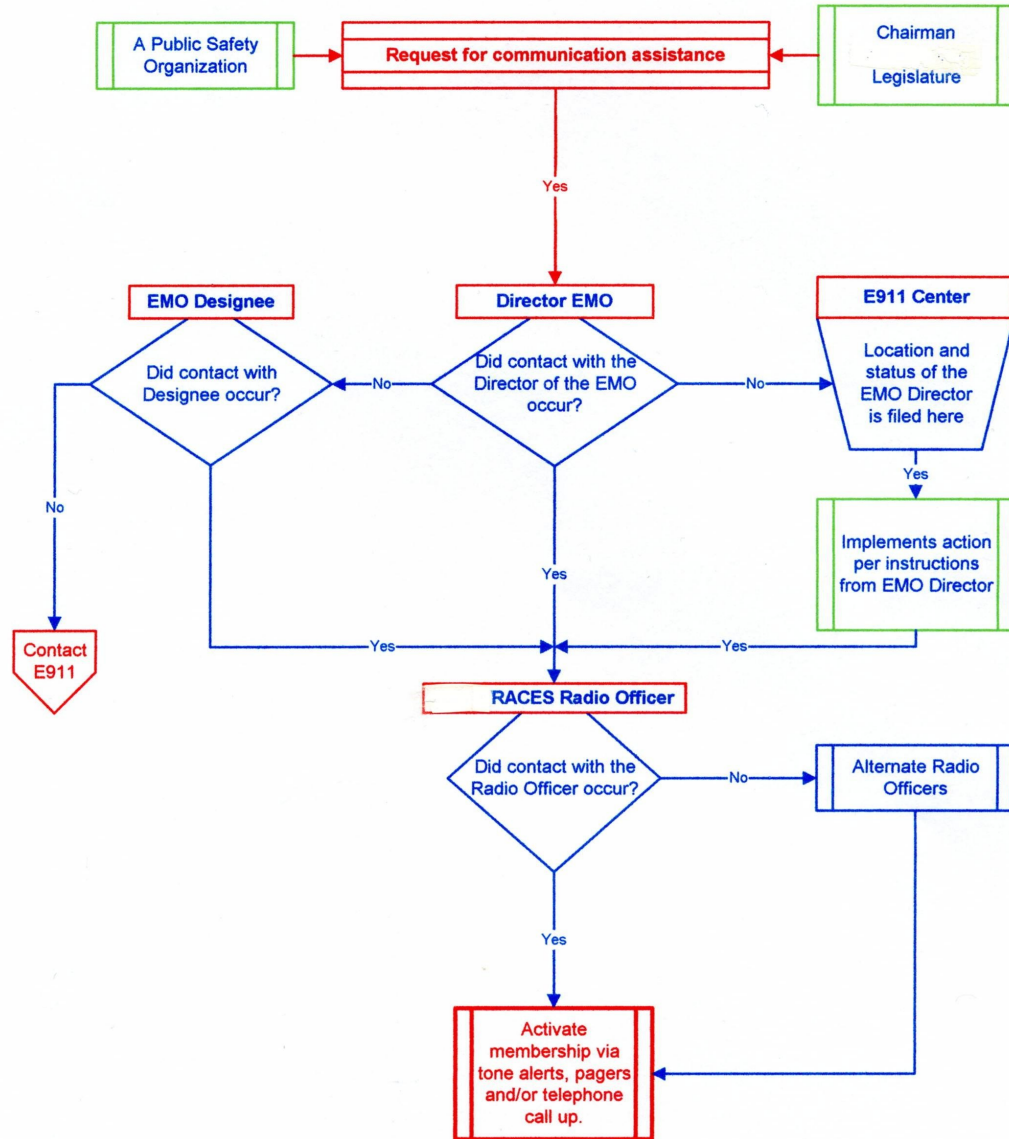
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Director, Oneida County Emergency Services

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Oneida County /RACES Radio Officer

### ANNEX "A" ACTIVATING /RACES



## ANNEX "B" PERSONNEL

<u>TITLE</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>TELEPHONE</u>
Director Oneida County Emergency Services		Work Home
Oneida County Emergency Services Designee		Work Home
E911 Center Dispatch	Supervisor	
RACES Radio Officer	Mike Carl KB2AUJ	Home 768-9685 Cell 292-0630
RACES Alternate Radio Officer/Technical	Bob Verdon KA2FWN	Home 797-5269
RACES Alternate Radio Officer/Admin	Kris Carl KC2MPC	Home 768-9685
RACES Alternate Radio Officer/EC/AEC		Home Work
RACES Alternate Radio Officer		Home Work