2027 Training & Exercise Program

"Working the Incident"

A performance based training curriculum

Program Overview:

The 2027 training program will focus on developing the practical skills ARES members need to function effectively during emergency communications assignments.

Rather than duplicating existing ICS or technical radio training, ***"Working the Incident"*** emphasizes what volunteers need to know and be able to do when they report for an incident assignment.

The program combines four core classes, performance reviews, and realistic exercises to build confidence, independence, and operational capability.

Four Core Competencies:

1. Reporting for Duty and Getting an Assignment

Knowing where to report, checking in, receiving an assignment, understanding responsibilities, and identifying the appropriate supervisor.

2. Getting the Job Done

Understanding instructions, organizing available resources, performing assigned tasks safely, recognizing limitations, and reporting problems.

3. Communicating and Managing Information

Receiving, recording, transmitting, and documenting operational information accurately while maintaining effective communications.

4. Staying Accountable and Finishing the Assignment

Providing status updates, maintaining accountability, transferring responsibilities, and properly completing an assignment or demobilizing.

Training & Exercise Approach:

- **Core Classes:** Four classes conducted during regularly scheduled ARES meetings, each consisting of approximately 60 minutes of instruction and 30 minutes of practical application.

- **Performance Reviews:** 120-minute tabletop exercises conducted on-line via Zoom during alternating months to practice and reinforce operational skills.

- **Mid-Year Tabletop Exercise:** An opportunity to apply multiple competencies in a coordinated incident scenario.

- **Annual SET Functional Exercise:** An opportunity to demonstrate operational capabilities and identify improvements.

Training and exercises will accommodate members with different levels of experience. Findings from the 2026 SET and subsequent Performance Reviews will guide improvements.

Prerequisite ICS Training:

No prior ICS training is required; FEMA IS-100 and IS-200 ***are strongly recommended*** for foundational knowledge.

Presentation Schedule:

Month	Time	Activity
January 9th	9 - 10:30 am	**Core Class 1** – *"Reporting for Duty"*
February 11th	7 - 9:00 pm	Performance Review / Tabletop via Zoom
March 13th	9 - 10:30 am	**Core Class 2** – "*Getting the Job Done"*
April 8th	7 - 9:00 pm	Performance Review / Tabletop via Zoom
May 8th	9 - Noon	Mid-Year half day Tabletop Exercise at the EOC
June 25-27		Field Day / After Action Review
July 10th	9 - 10:30 am	**Core Class 3** – "*Communicating and Managing Information"*
August 12th	7 - 9:00 pm	Performance Review / Tabletop via Zoom
September 11th	9 - 10:30	**Core Class 4** – "*Staying Accountable"*
October 9th	8 - 5:00 pm	SET full day Functional Exercise at the EOC
November 13th	9 - 10:00 am	SET After Action Review
December		Holiday Break

Program Goal:

Develop ARES volunteers who can report for an assignment, understand what needs to be done, perform their duties safely and effectively, communicate essential information, and operate with appropriate independence within an incident organization.