

The Communicator

April 2019

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HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY
ARES RACES
EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS

A Word from the EC



I want to take a moment to fully introduce myself. My name is Roy Drury, callsign K4DCT. I am currently a General Class Licensee and have been licensed since 1992.

I have been involved in Emergency Communications since 1982 then as a member of Livingston County REACT Team 2386 in New York

where we supported the Sheriff Department.

I have the following experience that I bring to the table as your new EC for Hillsborough County which includes:

- 18 years as a Firefighter & Rescue Specialist in NYS
- 17 years as an NYS EMT and EMT-D
- 14 years as a 911 Dispatcher and Fire / EMS Dispatcher in NYS
- I have been employed in various IT Related Positions since 2001, most currently as the Director of IT at a Local Management Company
- Moved to Florida with wife Dawn and Daughter Khristina in 2004
- Became President of Tampa Bay REACT Team 6127 in 2008
- Served as a member of the Board of Directors of REACT International for 5 years.
- Am CERT Trained as well as First Responder Trained as a member of Greater Tampa CERT
- Served on the Danka Disaster Response Team in 2004 and 2005
- Served on the Growth Communications Disaster Response Team from 2013 – 2018
- Joined the ARES Staff in 2016 as the Executive Assistant Emergency Coordinator
- Assistant Section Coordinator for the WCF Section of the ARRL
- Currently reside in Riverview (South County)

Training is a very big priority for myself and to make sure that all of our members are properly trained and equipped to handle the tasks that they are asked to do for our Served Agency.

My door is always open, if you ever have any problems or suggestions please feel free to reach out to me at rdrury@hcaresraces.org.

Who is our Served Agency?



I think that the most misunderstood things by most people is who do we serve, otherwise known as our Served Agency.

Our Served Agency is Hillsborough County Fire Rescue (HCFR) under the direction of the Office of Emergency Management (OEM). We also have other agencies that we serve in Hillsborough County but OEM is our primary agency above all others. Here is a list of some of the agencies that we serve, but this list is not inclusive and can change at any time:

Hillsborough County *	City of Tampa *	City of Plant City *
City of Temple Terrace *	Tampa Bay Area Hospitals	Department of Forestry
Department of Health	US Coast Guard	National Weather Service
Tampa Port Authority	American Red Cross	United Way
Crisis Center Tampa Bay	Salvation Army	VOAD
Southern Baptist Relief		
*All Departments		

We fall within ESF #2 Communications at the PSOC / EOC

Now is the time to prepare



Now is the time to prepare for the 2019 Hurricane Season that is quickly approaching and starts on June 1st, 2019.

Some things you should do now to prepare yourself and your family include:

- Make a family plan
- Make sure that your property and family is safe before deploying
- Take inventory of your personal property
- Review your insurance policies
- Make sure you have items to secure your home in place prior to a storm
- If you are assisting ARES RACES, make sure your have your go kit ready with all the items you need

Training, Training, Training



Recently the ARRL released its new ARES Plan, which was announced at our March General Membership Meetings. These changes are significant and you need to make yourself aware of them so that you can fully understand the direction that the ARRL is taking in regard to the ARES Program in general.

You can read about it here on the ARRL website by searching for the ARRL Plan or by clicking at the following link: <https://bit.ly/2GTxnBA>.

With that covered, OEM has asked for all of our personnel to be trained to a specific level which including the following online classes:

ICS-100.c <https://bit.ly/2L4Bgq6>

ICS-200.c <https://bit.ly/2CuamIQ>

ICS-700.b <https://bit.ly/2N97EFb>

ICS-800.c <https://bit.ly/2Godfs2>

Also the ARRL is now offering EC-001 for free, which is a very good emergency communications course, we eventually hope to offer this in house.

We will additionally be offering local classes in the following subjects, these additional training classes would be beneficial to make you the best emergency communications resources as possible.

Net Control Station (NCS)

ICS-213 Message Handling and Traffic Passing

ARRL Radio Gram Message Handling and Traffic Passing

Making your own antennas, as well as may other subjects that are currently under development.

Also we are offering license upgrade classes for General and Extra so if you have been thinking about an upgrade now is the time, watch for communications on upcoming classes as they are scheduled.

TRAINING



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In Conclusion

ARES needs you to be successful, without its members we can not provide service to our served agencies, how can you help? In many ways, we are looking for help in the following areas:

- Evacuation Center Operators for Special Needs, General Population and BOCC Shelters. These are not run nor organized by the Red Cross but by the Department of Health and Hillsborough County, please contact us as we would like to make sure we have adequate coverage by Hurricane Season for these 15 Shelters.
- NCS Operators for the various communications centers which include the PSOC, COOP Facility and South County.
- People interested in providing training, do you have a special skill such as home brew antennas, etc. please come forward and help get other people interested and engaged, it will only help the hobby.

Also its important that all members log all of their monthly activities into one of our tracking programs on a monthly basis. Don't wait for the end of the month to do this but do it after an event, this makes it easier for you overall and helps us as we are required by the ARRL to submit monthly reports on activity and hours.

Additionally your participation converts into in-kind donation dollars that can be used to get grants and support not only from Hillsborough County but from the State and Federal Government for supplies, radios, etc. that will only help us to better help everyone during an emergency.

So remember to log your hours at one of the two locations:

1. <https://members.hillsboroughares.org>
2. <https://missionmanager.net>

