

Clackamas County Amateur Radio Emergency Service (CARES)

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Clackamas County and CARES Update Memorandum of Understanding to Strengthen Emergency Communications

Clackamas County, Oregon — Clackamas County Disaster Management and the Clackamas Amateur Radio Emergency Service have signed an updated Memorandum of Understanding, reinforcing their long-standing partnership and strengthening the county's ability to communicate during emergencies and disasters.

The updated agreement formalizes how the two organizations work together to provide reliable emergency communications when normal systems are disrupted. It establishes clear expectations, coordination procedures, and operational support to help minimize the impacts of major incidents on the community.

In support of the updated agreement, members of the Clackamas Amateur Radio Emergency Service recently completed advanced emergency communications training through Clackamas County Disaster Management. The training prepared additional volunteers to serve in key communications roles and refreshed critical response skills needed during emergency activations.

The training program included instruction in emergency management organization, communication procedures, activation and response processes, field operations, and the setup and maintenance of amateur radio equipment at the County's Emergency Operations Center. The course is aligned with nationally recognized emergency management standards.

These efforts help ensure the volunteer communications team remains ready to support county operations in a wide range of scenarios. In 2024, members contributed more than 24,000 hours of service and training to support Clackamas County.

The Clackamas Amateur Radio Emergency Service is organized into five regional teams serving the east, west, south, Lake Oswego, and Oregon City areas of the county. In addition to emergency preparedness, volunteers also support community organizations and public events, including disaster relief agencies, major endurance races, and local community celebrations.

For more information about emergency communications and volunteer opportunities, visit <https://clackamasares.org>.

Clackamas County ARES© is supported by Clackamas Amateur Radio Emergency Services, an IRS 501(c)(3) Charitable Organization

Community members can also support the program through the Fred Meyer Community Rewards program