

Volunteers Needed

Two part answer

Answer 1 to question - where will BCARES volunteers be needed during a local or regional public service event.

1. BCARES safety and logistic radio operators are deployed along a foot or bicycle racecourse. These operators use a Handie -Talkie (HT) and are typically stationed near a race aid station. Experienced net control operators man the Net Control Station (NCS) located at the start-finish line. And, it is the usual practice for the amateur radio race communications coordinator to maintain HT communications with NCS as he/she shadows the race director.
2. What will be their function? Volunteers along the racecourse provide the communications for the aid stations along the course. These operators relay to the NCS bib numbers of lead runners and stragglers, information on injured runners, runners who drop out of the race, and the aid station supply status.

Answer 2 to question – where will BCARES volunteers be needed during a Bernalillo County incident where volunteers are deployed to provide auxiliary emergency communications.

BCARES volunteers are deployed to different locations based upon the nature of the incident. Below is an example of where an activated BCARES volunteer could be deployed to support auxiliary emergency communications during a wildland fire.

1. Most BCARES volunteers will be deployed as radio operators and message loggers at Bernalillo County shelters. Their function is to relay information and requests from the shelter manager to the Bernalillo County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) usually via a directed Network Control Station. The message logger may have multiple roles including liaison with the shelter manager. Shelter radio operators typically provide auxiliary 2m/70 cm FM phone and digital messaging communications to the EOC via 2m packet radio. The BCARES Go-Kit would be used to support communications from a shelter.
2. It is possible the Emergency Manager may request BCARES communications support at a park, trailhead, or picnic ground that functions as an aid and rest station for wildland firefighters. These radio operators would provide net communications using a BCARES Go-Kit or their own mobile rigs.
3. In past wildland fire incidents, BCARES radio operators become rovers and deploy with animal rescue and hazmat teams. Their communications are directed to animal shelters through the BCARES repeater network using their own portable mobile transceivers and mag-mount antennas.
4. BCARES volunteers may also be positioned in the mobile communications center such as the Public Safety Interoperable Communications (PSIC) van, or at the James McGrane East Mountains EOC in Tijeras, or at the Bernalillo County EOC on 2nd These radio operators typically function as the directed Network

Control Station operator and EOC net control packet radio operator. Message loggers are also utilized in the EOCs and may function as a liaison with the Bernalillo County Communications Unit Leader or Auxiliary Communications Manager.

5. Finally, a BCARES radio operator equipped with an HT may be assigned to shadow an Incident Command System (ICS) official as they move throughout the incident operational arena.