



# What does this mean you?

Disasters don't respect jurisdictional boundaries!

- **Ensure that no locality needing help goes without**
- **Database for alerting, statewide mobilization**
- **Provides multi-jurisdictional coordination, mutual aid**
- **Can be mobilized statewide**

# Why you MUST register...

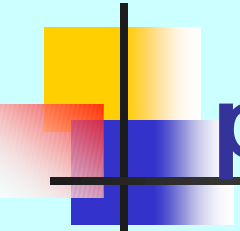
*Once registered, state Code and Federal law give certain benefits and protection against civil liability*

## Registration required for RACES participation

- 47 CFR 97.407(a) Appendix F

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- **Federal Volunteer Protection Act of 1997**
  - 42 USC 139
- **Virginia Laws protecting you are:**
  - Virginia State Government Volunteers Act §2.1-554
  - VA Emergency Mgt Assistance Compact §44-146



# When you register and participate in Virginia RACES:

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- **You get support** from leaders responsible to know your abilities, skills and limitations
  - *Ensure that you receive a suitable assignment*
  - *Within your physical and operating capabilities*
  - *To ensure your personal safety*
  - *And enable you to do your best*
- **You get protection** from liability for your REASONABLE acts under Virginia code and Federal law.



# Why this is important:

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Actions conducted in accordance with established plans, policies, procedures and directions of Virginia RACES leadership will usually be considered “reasonable.”

- RACES members must follow established policies, plans, procedures and instructions



## Agencies we serve want competent operators, who are:

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- Well-trained, knowledgeable, active
- Disciplined and well prepared
- Who function as an organized team
- Who follow policies and instructions
- And are good at what they do!



# Working with served agencies...

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The served agency is ALWAYS in charge

- Our ONLY job is to communicate
- Using good radio technique
- Leave incident management to the professionals



# Do NOT contact a served agency

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Unless so directed by Emergency Radio Officer

- Agencies are used to a single, familiar point of contact.
- ERO responsible to meet w/served agency “customers”
- Develop local needs assessment
- Develop local plan and agreements for mutual aid

So... stick with the plan

*It works to get you the best assignment and keep us all out of trouble, so that you will be safe, wanted and welcome.*



# Why?

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- **An inactive, unprepared ham is a liability!**
- **“Wannabes” “freelancers” = big headaches**
  - Even though you are a valued volunteer, you remain an ordinary citizen with *no special privileges or authority*
- **Doing it “right” protects us all.**



# The Role of RACES

As stated in

“Emergency Support Functions” (ESFs)  
of Federal and State Disaster Plans

## ESF-2, Communications

- **“Amateur Radio networks may provide daily and emergency public service communications during emergencies and disasters.”**