



## Genesee County ARES / AUXCOMM



# Frequently Asked Questions

### **Genesee County has moved to an AUXCOMM model, what does this mean?**

For the vast majority of amateur radio operators, nothing will change! If you like siren testing, public service events and SKY-WARN, nothing will fundamentally change for you. You may see more opportunities to serve and more structured coordination of events. We will continue to welcome operators from all training levels to participate, and Elmer new operators getting started.

### **What exactly is AUXCOMM?**

AUXCOMM is short for Auxiliary Communications. AUXC is an Incident Command Position. AUXCOMM is the service AUXC's provide. AUXCOMM is not an organization. Instead, AUXCOMM pulls the best and brightest minds from multiple volunteer communication providers (ARES, CAP, MARS, Salvation Army SATERN, ARC) into an *organization neutral* position within ICS.

### **What will an AUXCOMM model mean?**

Those that want to serve in the EOC, at a dispatch center, command post, shelter or med tent will need to be AUXCOMM trained. Many more opportunities to assist with exercises and incidents will be available to those wishing to seek advanced training.

### **What does it mean to be AUXCOMM trained?**

The Department of Homeland Security has a 2-day (typically Saturday and Sunday) 20-hour training. This is not mandatory for membership in ARES. This is an intensive training led by certified Communications Unit Instructors. Genesee County is looking to hold a class in fall of 2023! You are welcome travel to get into a class outside of Genesee County. Becoming AUXC trained, does not commit you to any response requirement! It's not for everyone, but we will encourage those interested.

### **What does it mean to be AUXC state recognized?**

There is a challenging position task book. It is completely voluntary. It is only for those wishing to seek that level of certification and recognition. There is no requirement for this. Those wishing to do this will be mentored and coached through the process.

### **Why the change?**

This is a national standard, created by DHS, adopted by the State of Michigan and now Genesee County.

### **What is happening to RACES cards?**

The state has opted to discontinue RACES cards in favor of an AUXCOMM card, beginning in 2023.

### **Will GCARES hold monthly training?**

Yes! Regular training will resume the first of the year in 2023. Tim Crane, PEM (WM8A) is a state certified ICS and AUXC Instructor and has agreed to serve as the new training officer! A mix of public service and AUXCOMM related training will be offered. Plan to see highly innovative training, cross county exercises and workshops coming to Genesee County.

### **Was amateur radio kicked out of the EOC radio room?**

No. The previous group was asked to remove their equipment. No time limit was given. There are still antennas on the county building. The county EOC will be moving to a new location. County owned equipment is still operational.

### **Why now?**

A new ARES Emergency Coordinator was needed after the death of Greg Zaleski, N8FVZ (SK). The only applicant was Chris Vogt, PEM (KD8BMB). Additionally Chris is heavily involved in AUXCOMM and could oversee this new model. Any further questions, feel free to contact him [kd8bmb@gmail.com](mailto:kd8bmb@gmail.com)