

SARASOTA COUNTY



**AUXILIARY COMMUNICATIONS SERVICE**

*"Breaking The Silence: Providing Communications After Conventional Systems Fail"*

## **Who We Are**

The Sarasota County Auxiliary Communications Service, Inc., ACS, is a non-profit organization whose membership consists of Sarasota County amateur (ham) radio operators dedicated to volunteering their time, equipment, and skills for emergency communications needs.

## **What We Do**

ACS provides backup communications services to Emergency Management during emergencies or disaster situations. This may consist of deploying operators to the Emergency Operations Center, Special Needs Shelters, Tactical First In Teams, Damage Assessment teams, or other locations that have an emergency communications need.

## **Organization**

The ACS Radio Officer is appointed by Sarasota County Emergency Management. His duties include:

- organize and manage the pool of amateur radio operators which makes up ACS
- serve as contact between ACS member-volunteers and with officials of served agencies
- in charge of all amateur radio emergency communications activities in his area, not just one interest group, one agency, or one club

## **Training**

The Federal Emergency Management Agency, FEMA, has established training guidelines for personnel involved with disaster response - which includes ham radio volunteers. ACS members assigned to County or Government facilities are required to complete the following minimum training requirements:

- ARRL EC-001 Level 1 Amateur Radio Emergency Communications
- IS-100 Introduction to Incident Command System, I-100
- IS-700 National Incident Management System (NIMS), An Introduction

ACS is proud to have been singled out by the FCC's "Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau" for promoting "best practices" for Emergency Communications Services.

## **Additional Information**

- Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau - [www.fcc.gov/pshs/emergency/amateur.html](http://www.fcc.gov/pshs/emergency/amateur.html)
- Auxiliary Communications Service - [www.saracs.org](http://www.saracs.org)
- E-mail - [wd4ahz@saracs.org](mailto:wd4ahz@saracs.org)