

**Here are the requirements for amateur radio operators to belong to the Florida State Emergency Response Team (FLSERT).**

**These requirements are in compliance with the requirements of the Department of Homeland Security and of the Federal Emergency Management Agency and apply to all potential disaster responders, volunteer and professional.**

**The listing below merely identifies the various categories of potential responders as they apply to amateur radio. ARES membership is preferred and recommended but is not an absolute requirement.**

**We also have added the EMCOMM training of the American Radio Relay League. This is not in the DHS/FEMA guidelines but is a League recommendation and one that is being applied in nearly all states in the Country.**

**Any person not meeting these requirements by the dates specified in the attached letter will not be eligible for deployment, participation, reimbursement, liability protection, etc.**

**Operators that will be deployed locally only or operating at home stations:**

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

**Operators likely to be deployed away from their County, ARRL or ARES Officials at the local level (AEC, EC, RACES Officer), Gateway Station Operators, Local EOC Station Operators or Liaisons:**

**ARRL EC-001 Level 1 Amateur Radio Emergency communications  
ARRL EC-002 Level 2 Amateur Radio Emergency communications  
NIMS IS 100 Introduction to Incident Command System, I-100  
NIMS IS 200 ICS for Single Resources and Initial Action Assessments  
NIMS IS 700 National Incident Management System (NIMS) An Introduction.**

**ARRL or ARES Leadership at the District Level, Deployed Operators with Management or Supervisory Assignments, State or Federal EOC Liaisons:**

**ARRL EC-001 Level 1 Amateur Radio Emergency communications  
ARRL EC-002 Level 2 Amateur Radio Emergency communications  
ARRL EC-003 Level 3, Revision 2, Amateur Radio Emergency Communications  
NIMS IS 100 Introduction to Incident Command System, I-100  
NIMS IS 200 ICS for Single Resources and Initial Action Assessments  
NIMS IS 700 National Incident Management System (NIMS) An Introduction.**

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**Plus, in FY 07, ICS 300, Intermediate ICS**

**ARRL or ARES Leadership at the Section, Division or National Level, State or National ESF-2 Representatives:**

**ARRL EC-001 Level 1 Amateur Radio Emergency communications  
ARRL EC-002 Level 2 Amateur Radio Emergency communications  
ARRL EC-003 Level 3, Revision 2, Amateur Radio Emergency Communications  
NIMS IS 100 Introduction to Incident Command System, I-100  
NIMS IS 200 ICS for Single Resources and Initial Action Assessments  
NIMS IS 700 National Incident Management System (NIMS) An Introduction.**

**: FEMA IS 800.A National Response Plan (NRP) An Introduction**

**Plus, in FY 07, ICS 300, Intermediate ICS and ICS 400, Advanced ICS**

**Additional information on those courses can be found at:  
<http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/crslist.asp>**

**The background on the EMCOMM courses is at:  
<http://www2.arrl.org/cce/courses.html>**

In addition to the listed NIMS courses, there are a number of other programs that would benefit the amateur radio response to disasters on the FEMA websites.

I am not familiar with the requirements of other communications agencies such as the MARS groups, the REACT groups, etc., but am familiar with the requirements for volunteer firefighters, EMT's, Church group members, Red Cross and Salvation Army members, Civil Air Patrol, etc., and the amateur radio requirements are not as strict as most of the requirements of those agencies.

County agencies can do what they want for local volunteers but they are facing the same requirements we are and if a local agency is not compliant, it will detrimentally affect their funding so I suspect that all Florida Counties will soon be in compliance.

And, as we have stated, if the financial burden for obtaining any of this training is overwhelming to any individual or group; there are mechanisms in place to assist with the cost of the course and the textbooks.

Of particular interest and directly applicable to your question below and the comments you have received, is the NIMS FAQ's page at [http://www.fema.gov/txt/emergency/nims/5\\_common\\_faqs.txt](http://www.fema.gov/txt/emergency/nims/5_common_faqs.txt). Note especially the first question, repeated below:

**Who has to take NIMS and ICS training?**

All federal, state, local, tribal, private sector and non-governmental personnel with a direct role in emergency management and response must be NIMS and ICS trained. This includes all emergency services related disciplines such as EMS, hospitals, public health, fire service, law enforcement, public works/utilities, skilled support personnel, and other emergency management response, support and volunteer personnel, as follows:

**Entry Level**

- \* FEMA IS-700: NIMS, An Introduction
- \* ICS-100: Introduction to ICS or equivalent

**First Line, Single Resource, Field Supervisors**

- \* IS-700, ICS-100 and ICS-200: Basic ICS or Its equivalent

**Middle Management: Strike Team Leaders, Division Supervisors, EOC Staff, etc.**

**\* IS-700, IS-800 NRP, ICS-100, ICS-200 and in FY07, ICS-300**

**Command and General Staff; Area, Emergency and EOC Managers**

**\* IS-700, IS-800, ICS-100, ICS-200 and in FY07, ICS-300 and ICS-400**

**Attached is a copy of a letter describing the NIMS system written by DHS to the Governor's of the 50 States. Of particular interest to us is the final paragraph of the letter:**

**In order to receive FY 2006 preparedness funding, the minimum FY 2005 compliance requirements described above must be met. Applicants will be required to certify as part of their FY 2006 grant applications that they have met the FY 2005 NIMS requirements. Additional information about NIMS compliance and resources for achieving compliance will be forthcoming from the NIC.**

**This has the potential for creating some dissention in the amateur ranks but our hands are tied, we have no choice but comply and consequently, amateur operators that want to participate in ARES or RACES activities, or in any emergency function or role, must also comply. However, I am sure that the amateur radio community in Florida recognizes their roles in the emergency management function and see the need for an overall management strategy. Their proven dedication and efforts in the past will surely overcome any future obstacles or difficulties.**