

Beyond amateur radio, the PERCS structure includes other forms of radio communications undertaken by emergency management volunteers. The level of technical knowledge and skill inherent in licensed amateur radio operators will ensure their leadership role within PERCS and the RAC/ARES.

Background:

Amateur radio operators throughout Canada and elsewhere have historically volunteered their time, equipment and expertise in support of emergency management activities.

In times of an emergency or disaster amateur radio may be required to facilitate emergency management communications and to pass formal Health and Welfare traffic.

Amateur radio has been recognized by many agencies nationwide and/or worldwide for its ability to provide an alternate communications capability.

RAC/ARES and PEP/PERCS agree that:

1. The Provincial Emergency Radio Advisory Committee, organized by PEP and responsible for the coordination of PERCS, will include a senior Field Services member of the RAC/ARES in the province and will endeavour to maintain and improve a province wide emergency radio communications capability;
2. Emergency radio communications activities in BC will operate under the principles of the British Columbia Emergency Response Management System (BCERMS), a standardized model for emergency management adopted by all BC government agencies;
3. The RAC/ARES will endeavour to ensure compliance with PEP policies relating to the conduct and support of volunteer emergency management training in BC;
4. The RAC/ARES will encourage BC volunteers to support and assist PERCS in the fulfillment of its emergency radio communications responsibilities and all other volunteer activities by becoming registered volunteers of the ARES unit in their respective areas and renewing that registration annually or as otherwise required in order to keep it current;
5. The RAC/ARES will notify PERCS of ARES appointments in BC and, where applicable, PERCS will assist to facilitate the integration of those appointees into BC's provincial emergency radio communications structure;
6. Under the issuance of a task number and/or at the discretion of a PEP Regional Manager, registered volunteers of the RAC/ARES will be eligible for reimbursement by PEP for provincial rates for out-of-pocket and travel expenses incurred while conducting approved business on behalf of PERCS;
7. Where different terms are used, a vocabulary list will be developed jointly by PERAC and the RAC/ARES to assist volunteers by providing definitions of