



GREENE COUNTY ARES

BARC MEMBERSHIP MEETING

John Westerkamp/W8LRJ

w8lrj@arrl.net

December 18, 2025

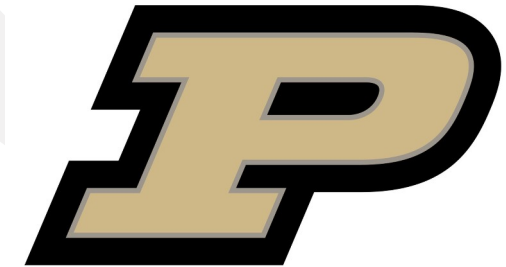


JOHN WESTERKAMP, W8LRJ

- Always interested in radio and have always been a SWL
- Extra Class Operator and BARC Member since April 2018

- Bachelor of Electrical Engineering from University of Dayton
- Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering from Purdue University
- Specialized in Digital Signal Processing/Communications
- Electrical Engineering Faculty at U.D. for 17 years
- Computers and Networking for 10 years
- Retired and enjoying a great hobby

- **LRJ stands for Lori, Rachel, and Jacob (wife and two kids)**
- Nephew is Jordan Westerkamp, football player University of Nebraska



OVERVIEW (TL;DR)



- **Greene County ARES (GCARES)** is a group of amateur radio operators dedicated to being prepared to provide emergency communications should the need arise
- GCARES is organized by clubs (cities) which are relatively independent of ARES (Amateur Radio Emergency Service)
- In Beavercreek, we formed the BTFD AuxComm with full support (including equipment in all five firestations) of the BTFD (Beavercreek Township Fire Department)
- Bellbrook uses the Bellbrook Amateur Radio Club (BARC)
- Fairborn uses the Upper Valley Amateur Radio Club (UVARC)
- Xenia uses the Xenia Weather Amateur Radio Net (XWARN)
- GCARES Nets every Tuesday at 9 pm on 146.910- (no tone)
- GCARES meetings at 7 pm last Monday of each month at BTFD #61
- October Simulated Emergency Test (among other exercises)



WHAT TO DO IN AN EMERGENCY



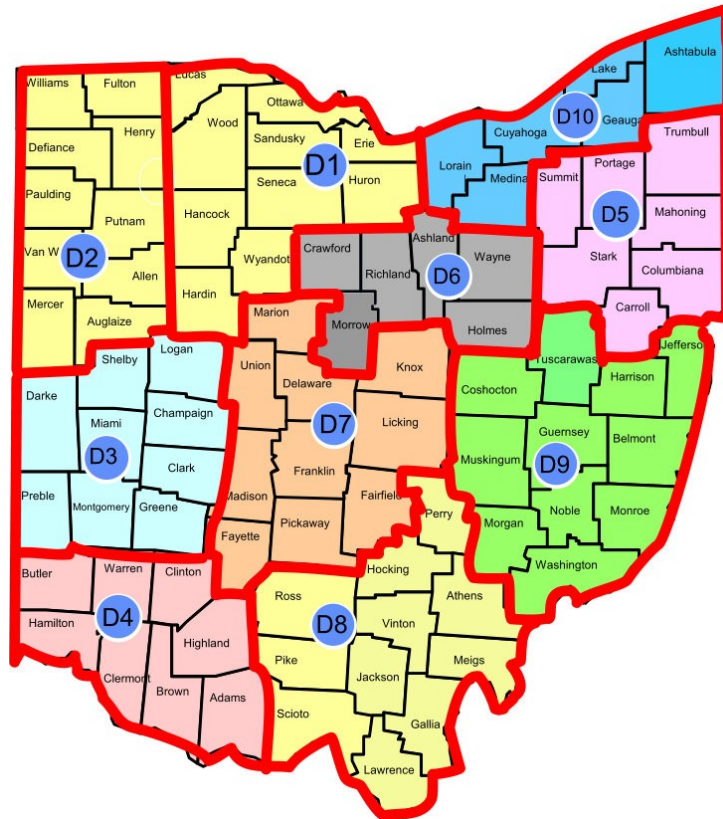
If you have a personal emergency or life is at stake, call 911 immediately.

If you receive a HyperReach alert, a severe weather warning, or other information about a potential disaster, please **monitor the XWARN repeater 147.1650(+)** (123.0 Hz tone). It is our official Greene County ARES alerting frequency.

If an emergency net is active, listen to the net control station (NCS) for instructions. If the NCS calls for check-ins, do so. If not, monitor until NCS calls for reports or other info. If you have the information requested, then call NCS; otherwise, continue to monitor.



OHIO SECTION ARES



- Organized into 10 Districts
- Greene County is in District 3
- *District 3 Emergency Coordinator is Elizabeth Klinc, KE8FMJ*
- District 3 website: ohd3ares.org
- D3 website has lots of information, especially about *Public Service Events* and software tutorials (Winlink and Fldigi)

CLUB/GCARES CONTACTS



- BTFD AuxComm – Henry Ruminiski, W8HJR, beavercreekfire.org/192/Volunteer
- BARC – Ray Hitt, N8VMX, and Jim Lusk, KC8EFD, bellbrookarc.org
- UVARC – Open
- XWARN – Elizabeth Klinc, KE8FMJ, xwarn.net
- **GCARES – Bob Baker, N8ADO (Emergency Coordinator), gcares.net**
- District 3 ARES – Elizabeth Klinc, KE8FMJ (District Emergency Coordinator), ohd3ares.org
- Ohio ARES – Bret Stemen, KD8SCL (Section Emergency Coordinator),
arrl-ohio.org/ohio-ares



Each club supports amateur radio equipment at the Greene County Emergency Management Agency and several public service and first responder agencies throughout the county.

HOW TO JOIN GCARES

- *GCARES is not a club and does not collect dues*
- Only requirement is to have a valid Amateur Radio License
- Go to *gcares.net*, fill out a Membership Form, and bring to a meeting
- **Level 1** – starting level for all members, no requirements (other than license)
- **Level 2** – desired level for all members
 - a) FEMA National Incident Management System (NIMS) Courses (IS-100, 200, 700, and 800)
 - b) Required to operate with FEMA or First Responders during an emergency
- **Level 3** – ARES Management Level (Level 2 plus IS-300 and IS-400) required for holding an Emergency Coordinator role
- Helpful to participate in local nets and exercises to better understand net protocols and to be more comfortable during an emergency



FEMA



America's Cyber Defense Agency

NATIONAL COORDINATOR FOR CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE SECURITY AND RESILIENCE



- **AuxComm Course**
 - a) Outstanding course showing how auxiliary communicators work within the Incident Command Structure (ICS)
 - b) Held Tuesday through Thursday the week before Hamvention
 - c) Requires Level 2 training and a sponsoring public service agency
 - d) Contact Bob Baker, N8ADO, for registration information

- **AuxC (Auxiliary Communicator)**
 - a) Several month long course with regular meetings (beginning in the fall)
 - b) Detailed instruction and practical training for official recognition by the State of Ohio as an Auxiliary Communicator
 - c) Requires completion of the AuxComm Course
 - d) Contact Bob Baker, N8ADO, for course and registration information

SKYWARN



In most years, thunderstorms, tornadoes and lightning cause hundreds of injuries and deaths and billions in property and crop damages. To obtain critical weather information, the National Weather Service (NWS) established SKYWARN® with partner organizations. **SKYWARN® is a volunteer program with between 350,000 and 400,000 trained severe weather spotters. These volunteers help keep their local communities safe by providing timely and accurate reports of severe weather to the National Weather Service.**

- Dayton Skywarn – dayton-skywarn.org, **146.640(-) 123.0 Hz tone**
- National Weather Service – weather.gov/skywarn
- Monitor these sites and the GCARES website for information on Storm Spotter Classes, usually in the early spring
- XWARN **147.165(+)** **123.0 Hz tone**



WHAT IS BEAVERCREEK AUXCOMM?



- **Beavercreek AuxComm** provides backup communications and technical support for the Beavercreek Township Fire Department (BTFD) and supports amateur radio emergency operations in Beavercreek Township
- Part of the **Beavercreek Township Fire Department Auxiliary** (which is part of the BTFD Fire Department)
- BTFD Auxiliary is an all volunteer organization that assists with On-Scene, CERT, Victim Assistance, Social Activities, and Auxiliary Communications
- BTFD AuxComm also represents the Beavercreek Township portion of Greene County ARES
- Monthly Net from all 5 firestations and 2 vans to test equipment
- Beavercreek AuxComm is currently run by Henry Ruminski, W8HJR



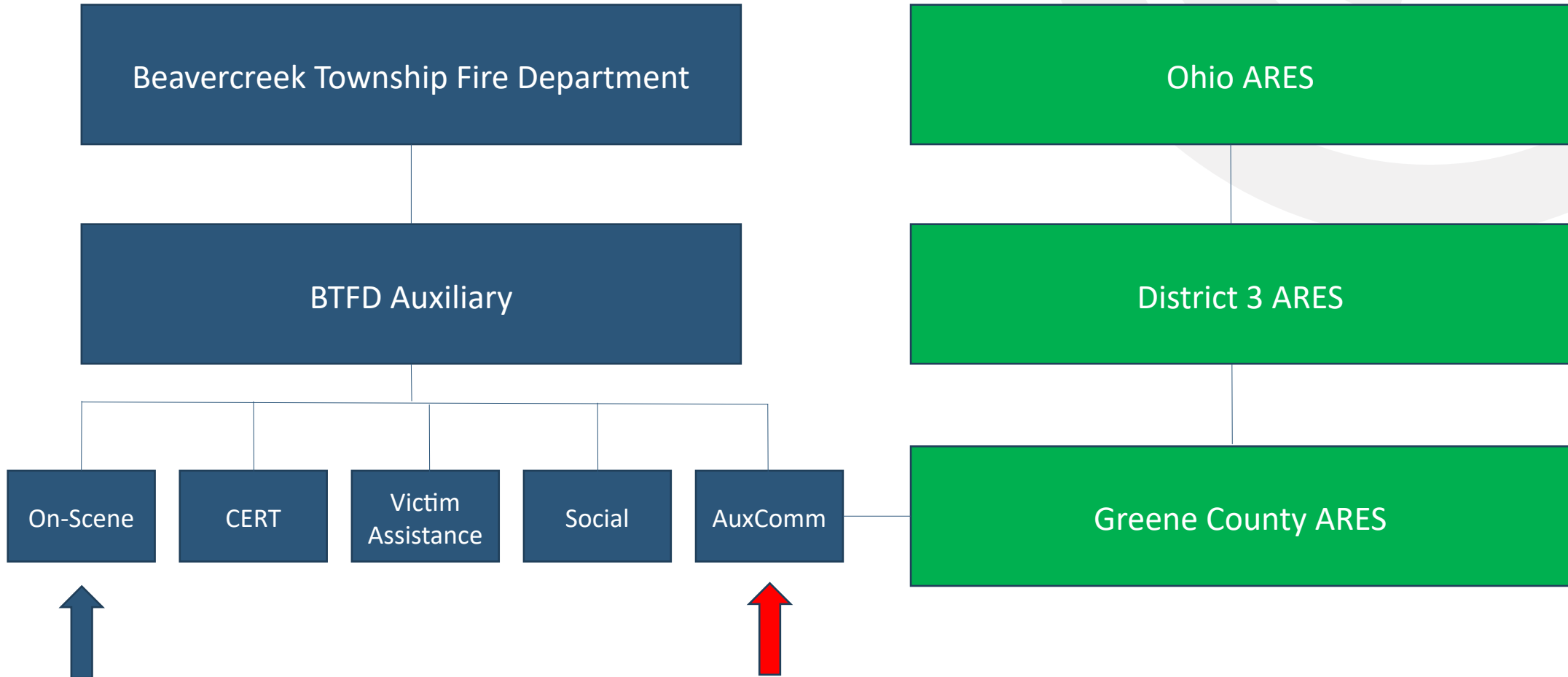
BTFD AUXCOMM REQUIREMENTS

- Members of the BTFD Auxiliary (background check)
- Resident of Beavercreek Township
- Licensed amateur radio operators
- National Incident Management System (NIMS) Training (4 FEMA courses: IS-100, IS-200, IS-700, IS-800), i.e., Level 2
- Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA)/Department of Homeland Security AuxComm Course (taught week before Hamvention)
- AuxComm trains with the Fire Department and with GCARES
- **Without the training, cannot be in the EOC or operate the station radios, but can still support emergency operations (volunteers)**

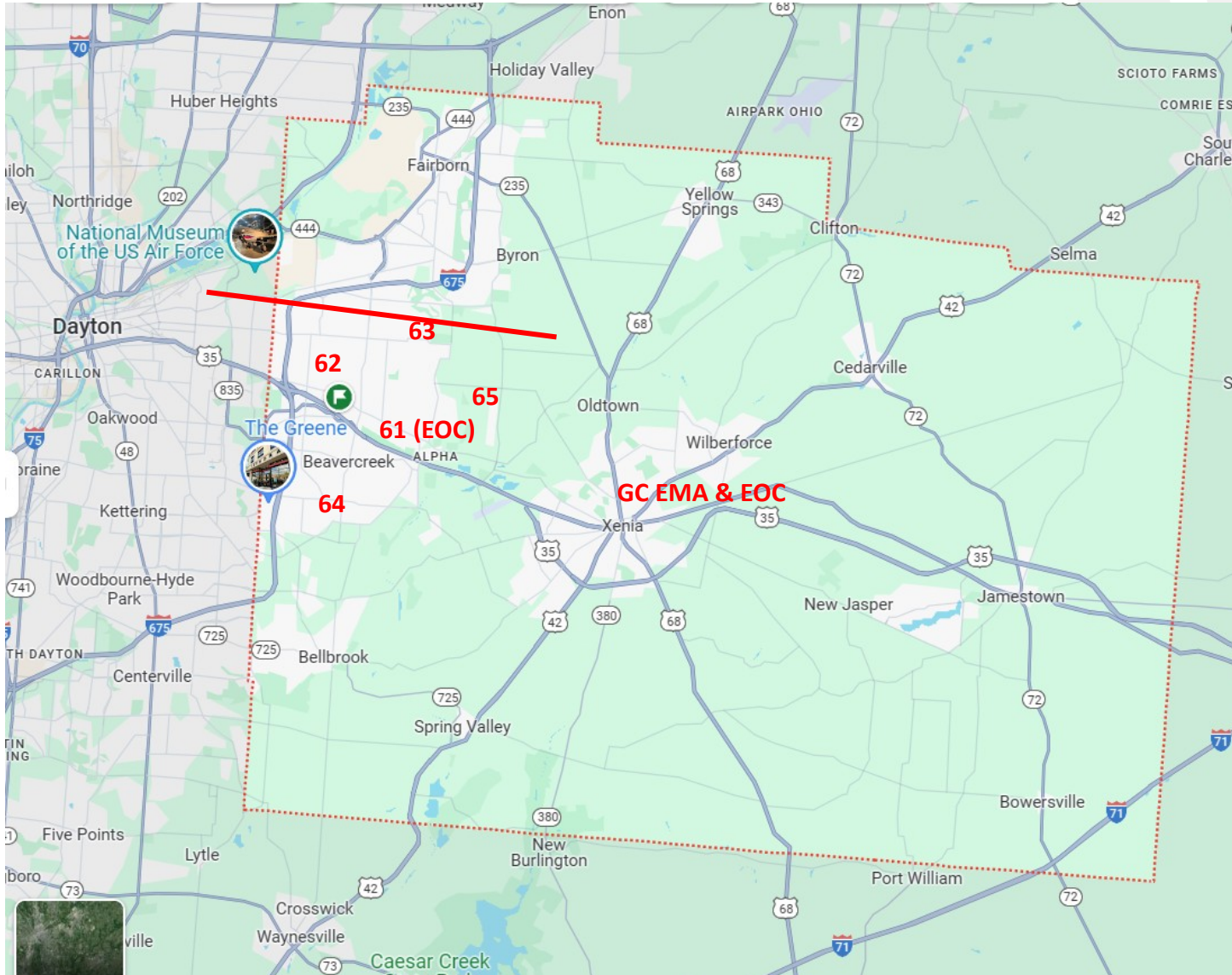


FEMA

BTFD AUXCOMM



WHERE IS BEAVERCREEK TOWNSHIP FD?



Greene County

2019 Tornado



BTFD AUXILIARY EVENTS



- 2019 Tornado
 - CERT team cleared roads for fire trucks
 - On-Scene set up in parking lot near hardest hit area to distribute water
 - AuxComm organized volunteers
 - AuxComm provided damage assessment support with firefighters
 - **GCARES was NOT deployed**
- 2022 Search and Rescue
 - Elderly dementia gentleman walked away from home
 - CERT and On-Scene set up in parking lot with SAR teams
 - CERT/AuxComm led volunteer search parties through local neighborhoods
- Several fires around Beavercreek Township



2024 APRIL ECLIPSE



- BTFD Auxiliary stood by to be deployed as needed (one van was deployed to the Greene County Airport)
- AuxComm worked at each Fire Station since crews were out most of the day and were available to help with communications or to assist people looking for help at the fire station
- **AuxComm prepared the GCARES Incident Action Plan (IAP) which included the ICS-205 Communication Plan**
- GCARES deployed to EMA EOC in Xenia and was prepared to backup 9-1-1 services, if needed; ran information/tactical net most of the day
- The AuxComm IAP was added to the BTFD IAP and published on the GCARES website *gcares.net*



ICS-205



INCIDENT RADIO COMMUNICATIONS PLAN (ICS 205)

1. Incident Name: April 2024 Eclipse			2. Date/Time Prepared: Date: 03/13/2024 Time: 1200L				3. Operational Period: Date From: 04/08/2024 Date To: 04/08/2024 Time From: 1000L Time To: 2000L			
4. Basic Radio Channel Use:										
Zone Grp.	Ch #	Function	Channel Name/Trunked Radio System Talkgroup	Assignment	RX Freq N or W	RX Tone/ NAC	TX Freq N or W	TX Tone/ NAC	Mode (A, D, or M)	Remarks
	1	RESOURCE	VRES01	All Hams	147.1650 W	123.0 Hz	147.7650 W	123.0 Hz	A	Information, Alerting, Standby (AIS) and Resource/Logistics Net (W8XRN Repeater)
	2	COMMAND	VCOM02	DEC, EC's, and IC's	146.7750 W	77.0 Hz	146.1750 W	77.0 Hz	A	Command Net for D3 KD3WCO (KD3WCO Repeater)
	3	COMMAND	UCOM03	EOC, EC, IC's	442.7250 W	131.8 Hz	447.7250 W	CSQ	M	GCARES Command Net W8GCA (W8GCA Repeater)
	4	TACTICAL	VTAC04	All Hams	146.9100 W	131.8 Hz	146.3100 W	CSQ	A	GCARES Tactical Net W8GCA (W8GCA Repeater)
	5	TACTICAL	UTAC05	Beavercreek & B'Creek Twp	443.6750 W	118.8 Hz	448.6750 W	118.8 Hz	A	Beavercreek and Township Tactical Net (W8DGN Repeater)
	6	TACTICAL	VTAC06	Bellbrook & Sugarcreek	147.0450 W	118.8 Hz	147.64500 W	118.8 Hz	A	Bellbrook and Sugarcreek Tactical Net (W8DGN Repeater)
	7	TACTICAL	VTAC07	Fairborn & Bath Twp	145.4100 W	118.8 Hz	144.8100 W	118.8 Hz	A	Fairborn and Bath Twp Tactical Net (K8FBN Repeater)
	8	TACTICAL	UTAC08	Xenia & Xenia Twp	443.1000 W	CSQ	448.1000 W	123.0 Hz	A	Xenia and Xenia Twp Tactical Net (W8XRN Repeater)
5. Special Instructions:										
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. First backup is simplex on the repeater output (RX Frequency). 2. Use MT63-2KL on VHF/UHF digital nets (other than Winlink) (FM with 1500 Hz offset). 3. Traffic to W8SGT should use OHDEN and Olivia 8-500 for HF digital nets (USB with 1500 Hz offset). May need to adjust HF frequencies to avoid QRM. 4. Be sure to monitor FRS, GMRS, and CB frequencies. 5. If the cell network fails or is overloaded, use VRES01 as 9-1-1 backup. 										
6. Prepared by:				Name: John Westerkamp (W8LRJ)				Signature: _____		
ICS 205			IAP Page 1		Date/Time: 03/13/2024 1200L					

← Alert and Info

← GCARES

SUMMARY



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BTFD AUXILIARY

- Unique volunteer organization
- Part of the BTFD (covered by Worker's Compensation)
- Background check required (most Fire Chiefs will not allow people into the station without a background check since 9/11)
- On-Scene provides fire scene assistance with firefighter rehabilitation as well as providing food and drinks during long deployments
- Provides scribe support
- Auxiliary is called out when a Working Fire is declared (using the Active 911 app)



WHAT IS AUXCOMM?



- Auxiliary Communications is an umbrella term
- Developed by CISA (Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency) in the Department of Homeland Security in 2009
- Concept is to educate amateur radio entities to work and train with public safety personnel, understand the National Incident Management System (NIMS), understand the Incident Command Structure (ICS), and the role of the Communications Unit Leader (COML)
- Identified as AUXC in the ICS
- Includes variety of organizations or no organization, e.g., ARES/RACES, MARS, SHARES, SATERN, CAP, GMRS/FRS, Citizen's Band Radio, etc.
- Leave individual organization identity outside