



Mason County Communications Unit

MASON COUNTY COMMUNICATIONS UNIT (MCCU)

Mason County Communications Unit (MCCU) is an organization of dedicated licensed amateur radio volunteers with non-licensed volunteers in support roles who provide essential radio communications in support of local and state government agencies during times of emergencies/disasters. Those individuals who wish to work with the Mason County Division of Emergency Management (DEM) at a county level will hold membership in the MCCU.

TEAM MEMBERSHIP CRITERIA

Membership is open to any individual with an interest in providing vital Emergency Operations Center (EOC) support for the community during a disaster situation, and in training the community in disaster awareness. Because of the seriousness of the team mission, members should be mature, willing to commit time, and able to respond quickly. Members are expected to participate in training and exercises on a regular basis, and be available to respond to actual disasters when needed.

Members are registered as State Emergency Workers by completing and submitting a Registration Application to the Mason County Division of Emergency Management. This document can be found at <https://mil.wa.gov/search-and-rescue-sar-program> (click on EMD-024 Emergency Worker Registration Card "A"). A photo-ID is provided by Mason County. This is necessary for identification during a disaster. *Refer to WAC 118-04, Emergency Worker Program for specific requirements.*

REQUIREMENTS FOR MEMBERSHIP

- A 24/7 contact number
- Degree of availability for mission assignments
- Desire to provide services to the citizens of Mason County
- Attend team monthly meetings
- Be willing to maintain the requirements established by the Washington Administrative Code (WAC) for Emergency Workers
- Participation in exercises and simulations for the team
- Complete required Team training
- Background Check

TRAINING COURSES

The following courses are part of the Unit curriculum. These courses are considered mandatory for Unit membership. While other courses may be recommended they are not considered mandatory. Each new member has one year to complete the required training. Many other training courses are available and team members are encouraged to seek out the other related training.

- CPR/First Aid
- Blood Borne Pathogens
- FEMA IS-100 (ICS 100)
- FEMA IS-700 (NIMS)
- Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM)
- Communication Training

ACTIVITIES

Unit members participate in training activities throughout the year. The Unit participates in practice exercises and simulated events. The exercises will demonstrate the Unit's ability to perform effectively with the Mason County EOC and local authorities.

In addition, team members maintain a high level of personal emergency preparedness and readiness to respond. Disaster planning begins at home with family preparedness. Participants must have their families prepared for disaster. It is unreasonable to expect volunteers to leave their families in a time of extreme need; being prepared will lessen that need. MCCU members may also be called upon for:

- Assisting other emergency units as appropriate
- Technical consulting services
- Community presentations

MASON COUNTY MCCU IS LOOKING FOR NEW MEMBERS

If interested in joining the MCCU visit the Mason County website at: <http://www.co.mason.wa.us/forms/dem/volunteer-application.pdf> and fill out the application, then mail, along with the State Registration Application, to Mason County DEM, 100 W. Public Works Dr, Shelton, WA 98584 or fax to (360) 427-7756. For more information please contact Mason County DEM at (360) 427-7535 or come to a MCCU meeting. The MCCU meets the last Tuesday of every month at 1800 hours (6:00 PM) at the Mason County Public Works facility, 100 W. Public Works Dr., Shelton.