

Mobile Communications Facility Operations Trailer Movement

1. Introduction

The Gwinnett County, Georgia Amateur Radio Emergency Service® (ARES®) has a Mobile Communications Facility (MCF) housed in a trailer donated by Scientific Atlanta. The trailer is a dual axel trailer with a 10,000 lb. Gross Vehicle Weight. This Standard Operating Guideline has been established to help provide for the safe movement of the trailer and must be reviewed by all individuals involved in the movement of the trailer.

2. Responsibilities

The Assistant Emergency Coordinator (AEC) for the Mobile Communications Facility (MCF) is responsible for maintaining this document.

Each member of Gwinnett County ARES® that works with the Gwinnett County MCF is responsible for following this guideline.

3. Related Publications

MCF 1-2 Generator Operation

4. Definition of Terms

AEC Assistant Emergency Coordinator

ARES® Amateur Radio Emergency Service® (ARES® and Amateur Radio Emergency Service® are registered service marks of the American Radio Relay League.)

MCF Mobile Communications Facility

5. Guideline

5.1. General Guidelines

- There must be two (2) vehicles in addition to the tow vehicle to insure safe movement of the trailer. Also trailer personnel should have at least one other vehicle capable of towing the trailer in the event the tow vehicle becomes disabled in transit.
- To insure that no damage occurs to either the towing vehicle or the trailer, there must be a guide to help the driver safely hook up to trailer.
- Before and after connecting the trailer to the tow vehicle, walk around trailer and remove wheel covers, visually inspect tires for tread depth and any cuts or dry rotting. Check the tire pressure and check the trailer for any damage or missing parts. If any defects are found note and hand a list to the Assistant Emergency Coordinator (AEC) for the Mobile Communications Facility (MCF).
- Place the battery used for cranking the generator that is stored inside the trailer in the emergency breakaway battery holder and connect the cables.

- Before moving the trailer make sure that wheel chocks are removed, that the trailer cargo has been secured, the back doors are locked, and tongue lock, safety chains and emergency breakaway circuit have been secured on tow vehicle. Connect the trailer power connector and be sure that all lights are working such as running, signal and brake lights.
- When arriving at destination site, before dropping the trailer, do a complete site survey to insure that there are no restrictions that would affect communications such as tall trees, buildings and power lines. Also check to see if shore power is available or if generator power will be needed. When this has been completed secure the trailer, chock the wheels and then unhook it from the tow vehicle.
- The generator is to be located at least 50 feet from the trailer and wheels chocked to insure that the vibration from it running does not cause it to roll. Refer to MCF 1-2 for generator operating instructions.
- Remember, safety is important. Always keep safety first when operating the trailer to insure that you do not become part of the emergency that ARES® is supporting.

6. Release Information

Steve Townsend, KG4POG, Assistant Emergency Coordinator for the Mobile Communications Facility, is the author of this document.

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