

Mobile Communications Facility Operations

Generator Operation

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. Generators are assigned to provide power to the trailer. This document provides guidance on how the generators are to be employed.

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 and other members that may use Gwinnett County ARES® owned generators 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

- **Safety is the most important aspect of any operation.**
- When the Mobile Communications Facility (MCF) Team arrives at the MCF deployment location and have completed the site survey and found that generator power is to be the power source for the exercise they are to locate a level area, if conditions warrant, then begin to safely remove the generator from the trailer using the power winch and move the generator to the designated location.
- Verify that proper grounds are installed on the MCF and generators before powering up any equipment.
- Rope off and mark the generator area so unauthorized personnel will not find themselves in danger of getting hurt. All cables are to be covered with walk boards or marked to keep people from tripping over them.
- Before starting the generator, check the oil level and top off the oil level if needed.
- Check all power connections at both the generator and MCF.

- Be sure all breakers are off until the generator is running.
- Check and recheck the gas line connection to the fuel supply to insure that there are no leaks.
- During any event using generators the fuel level is to be checked every hour to insure fuel does not run dry. All fuel containers need to be kept at a minimum of 5 feet from generator at all times
- When any event exceeds four (4) hours, the back-up generator needs to be started and used. Follow the same pre-start procedures above. Follow the above preceding steps when changing generators. Change generators every four (4) hours.

6. Release Information

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

The date of publication for this document is June 6, 2005. This is the initial release of this document.