

Safety

ATV Operation

1. Introduction

When Gwinnett County Amateur Radio Emergency Service® (ARES®) responds to assist in emergency situations, the situation may have been triggered by an incident that contains hazards or results in hazardous conditions. This is particularly true when a responder may be focused on specific tasks such as when using Amateur Television (ATV) transmission, focusing on obtaining the desired video feed. These measures also apply during training exercises.

2. Responsibilities

The Assistant Emergency Coordinator (AEC) for Administration is responsible for maintaining this document. Suggestions for improving this document shall be directed to the AEC for Administration.

All personnel involved in ATV operations are responsible for following this SAFETY procedure. The procedures in this Standard Operating Procedure are not optional. If it is not possible to comply with these procedures, ATV operation shall be abandoned.

3. Related Publications

SAFETY 1-1 General Safety Guidelines

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.)

ATV Amateur Television

NCS Net Control Station

Served Agency A public service agency with which Gwinnett ARES® has established a support agreement through the implementation of a formal Memorandum of Understanding.

5. Guideline

5.1. General Guidelines

When ATV is used in providing imagery to Served Agencies, three people shall be used as the ATV team providing the video feed for the event. The Camera Team shall be composed of the camera operator who shall be responsible for operation of the camera and transmission, and a safety observer. The third team member functions as the Net Control Station (NCS) for the ATV operation and is located at an ATV receiving point near the scene of video operations.

5.2. Video Operation Team

5.2.1. Net Control Station

An NCS shall function as the primary control for ATV operations. This should be located at an ATV receiving point located in relative near proximity to the video operation. This location shall be equipped with two-way communications capable of communicating with the ATV camera operator and the safety observer. The NCS is responsible for alerting the camera team of any dangers the NCS may become aware of through Served Agency personnel or other means.

5.2.2. Camera Operator

The camera operator will be responsible for operation of the video equipment used to obtain the visual information to be transmitted to the collection point(s). In addition to the video camera and transmission equipment, the operator shall be equipped with two-way communications to the NCS for obtaining instructions, including safety related information that may be passed from the NCS for the ATV operation.

5.2.3. Safety Observer

The safety observer shall remain with the camera operator during all ATV operations. The safety observer shall be equipped with two-way communications to the NCS for obtaining instructions, including safety related information that may be passed from the NCS for the ATV operation. The safety observer shall watch for situations that may be hazardous to the camera operator as well as the observer's own safety. If a hazardous situation occurs, the safety observer shall immediately alert the camera operator of the hazard and both the safety observer and camera operator shall withdraw from the hazardous situation. They shall notify the NCS of the safety hazard.

5.3. Reporting

5.3.1. Incident Reporting

All safety incidents should be recorded by the NCS in the operating location's log. Details regarding the incident should be included for later review and determination about how the incident might have been prevented.

5.3.2. Post-Event Reporting

After completing an event, copies of ATV operation logs and videotapes, including safety incident reports, should be submitted to the AEC for Administration. The AEC for Administration shall review all logs and compile a summary of safety incidents for review at the next following Planning Committee meeting for determination of any required action(s).

6. Release Information

Stan Edwards, WA4DYD, Emergency Coordinator, is the original author of this document. Comments regarding this document should be directed to the AEC for Administration.

The date of publication for this document is July 15, 2003, and is the initial publication.