

# **Amateur Radio (Ham) Emergency Communications Course**

**Date/Time:** Saturday, April 9, 2022 8AM-4PM

**Location:** Butler Fire Department, Municipal Room, 12621 W Hampton Ave, Butler, WI

**Audience:** Police, Fire/EMS, Emergency Management, Hospital Emergency Departments, Hospital Emergency Preparedness Personnel, and the general public with a technical interest in providing emergency communications.

**Course Purpose:** This course will help prepare the candidate for the Federal Communication Commission (FCC) Amateur Radio Technician Class License.

**Sponsored by:** Milwaukee Area Technical College, Butler Volunteer Fire Department, Milwaukee Area Public Safety Amateur Radio (MAPSAR) Group, Milwaukee/Waukesha County Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES), Milwaukee Radio Amateur Club VEC, Inc and other various local ham clubs.

## **What is Amateur Radio?**

Ham radio (officially called an amateur radio) is a two-way personal communication service regulated by the FCC. Amateur radio is for non-commercial use, such as communication exchange, radio-use training, recreational activities, and emergency communication.

One of the fundamental principles underlying the amateur radio service is the “recognition and enhancement of the value of the amateur service to the public as a voluntary noncommercial communication service, particularly with respect to providing emergency communications.”

Further, the rules state that “no provision of these rules prevents the use by an amateur station of any means of radio communication at its disposal to provide essential communication needs in connection with the immediate safety of human life and immediate protection of property when normal communication systems are not available.”

Amateur radio operators provide essential communications links and facilitate relief actions in disaster situations. While land mobile radio services (such as police/fire/ems/hospital communication systems) are the primary means of conducting emergency communications, amateur radio plays a unique and critical role when these primary facilities are damaged, overloaded, or destroyed.

**Required Text Book:** ARRL Ham Radio License Manual 4th Edition. This text, which includes the exam question pool, is valid until June 30, 2022.

<http://www.arrl.org/shop/Ham-Radio-License-Manual/>

**Testing:** FCC license exam to be administered by MRAC Volunteer Coordinator and are closed book exams. They also have additional testing dates available at: <https://www.mracvec.org/>, typically held monthly at Ham Radio Outlet, 5710 Good Hope Rd, Milwaukee.

**Questions/Contact:** Chad Stiles, N9PAY, email - [stilesc@matc.edu](mailto:stilesc@matc.edu)

**Pre-course Work:** It is strongly recommended to read textbook and take practice tests (available on apps/online as well) prior to class.

New applicants must create a FCC user profile and register for a FCC Registration Number (FRN) before taking their first license examination. This process will generate a FCC Registration Number (FRN) to be used in place of a Social Security number on NCVEC Form 605. The FCC produced a video about this process, which you can view here. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7a4doKEPN5M>

To register for an FRN, please go here: [apps.fcc.gov/cores/userLogin.do](https://apps.fcc.gov/cores/userLogin.do) Any questions, contact the FCC. They provide an email address and phone number on that page.

### What To Bring To The Test Session?

- A government issued photo ID. If you don't have a photo ID, bring two other forms of ID (acceptable forms of identification can be found at: <http://www.arrl.org/what-to-bring-to-an-exam-session>). Young people (under the age of 18) without a picture ID are welcome to test with us. At least one parent or guardian accompany the child to vouch for his or her identity. The parent or guardian must present a government issued identification.
- For Technician Class exam: A picture ID and \$5.00 testing fee
- It costs \$5.00 to re-take any failed exam again. Cash only. No checks or credit cards.
- We provide all the necessary paperwork. Due to the pandemic, you must bring your own pens and pencils, plus calculator if needed. We suggest you bring 2 pens and 2 pencils so you have an extra of each.
- The FCC requires all candidates to have an email address.



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FIRE DEPARTMENT**

