

----- Original Message -----

From: [David A. Norris](#)

To: 'Tom, K5WTH'

Sent: Saturday, August 09, 2008 9:17 AM

Subject: RE: Training/Certifications

Hi Tom,

Yes, I think you're right I need to do this one. I will do some edits and expand on part of this to address some other issues. I like the content and what you have here! I'll run with it say on Monday the 18th. This will be a good "calmer downer"... Hi Hi Hi.

73

David

-----Original Message-----

From: Tom, K5WTH [mailto:k5wth@cablelynx.com]

Sent: Saturday, August 09, 2008 6:02 AM

To: David Norris

Cc: JM; John Godfrey

Subject: Training/Certifications

Good morning David,

Here I go again. Since the S--- hit the fan so to say, I have been trying my best to write a program that either you or I could do on the ASTEN that would help people to accept the changing times.

Personally I would like to see you do this program because it would have a better effect, or at least I think it would. Let me know what you think.

73

Tom

COMFORT ZONES!

I have written and rewritten tonight's material several times in the last few weeks but could not find the right words to say what I wanted to say. In some cases it was too demeaning. In others, it was too soft.

Then I read an interesting article about comfort zones. That got me to thinking about my own comfort zone and how it pertains to home and particularly ARES/RACES. And that got me to thinking about how some

of you like to push other peoples buttons and take them out of their comfort zones at various times. This includes me. It also got me to thinking about how you hate just like anyone else does to be removed from the comfort of what you are comfortable with.

So here we are! You have been pushed by the list of ARES/RACES requirements which are being instituted. Many of you are pushing back and grumbling has been heard both directly and indirectly about the new requirements. There have been questions about why we should have to do this or that thing. What's in it for all of us is the ability to look and sound "Professional" and that goes a long way when you are working with Professional's.

No one is asking anyone to blindly do anything. What is being asked is for you to be trained and get some upgrading of your individual skills so should an emergency happen in Arkansas or anywhere in the nation that you and others can respond at a professional level and not look like incompetent wannabes to the people who have asked for your assistance who in most cases are professionals.

I am just as guilty as any of you because I do not like to be pushed. I must admit however that in retrospect most of the time the pushes directed at me have been a good thing and helped me to grow and learn as well as become stronger in my conviction that we must be prepared. This means that we all, including me, need to step up to the plate and do what needs to be done to be prepared to provide Amateur Radio Emergency Communications.

Some people will never learn the things we ask them to learn. Listen to a Skywarn net anywhere and even though we all try to stress that only certain types of information are to be transmitted at certain times or only certain types of check-ins are or will be accepted, there are still individuals who seem to feel that they don't have to fit the mold or do what is asked of them or maybe don't know better due to lack of training. This kind of behavior is human nature and I accept that to a point.

Do our Local, County and State Emergency Managers need us? Of course they do. Should their communications fail we are the last line of defense for any of them. But ask yourself would you currently use us after listening to some of our meager efforts in the past to help? Then you

might start to understand the negative comments made by various people in power. You are all communicators. Communications is not just about setting up your radio and sitting back waiting for something to happen or be sent through you.

I realize that should an emergency happen that we will have tons of Amateurs that will come to the aid of us with whatever equipment and time that they can spare. But equipment alone is not the real need. Nor is the thirty plus years that some of you have had a license and the thought that you “Know all there is to know and so do not or should not need to do the training asked of you”. A know-it-all attitude will leave us all behind in this fast changing world. Don't think I know what I am talking about? The last several Emergency Activation Tests that I have been a part of or that I monitored have proved to me that most ARES/RACES/Amateurs do not take training seriously enough.

If you were an Emergency Manager would you want to deal with untrained people offering help in critical locations? This does not mean that training cannot be handled for those who just kind of show up but it does mean that response time is much shorter when we are all familiar with what it is that we are expected to do and how we plan to achieve it. Those with minimal training cannot and should not expect to be put on the 'Frontlines'. You will most likely, unless you are the only one at the time the need arises, be relegated to some task behind the lines or scenes.

Prove me wrong! Step out of your comfort zone and make yourself a better individual for it. Have the integrity, respectability and responsibility not only to yourselves but to our Country to do what is asked of you to become a better trained ARES/RACES member.

Let's all get off our soft back-sides and become the leaders in the state. Leave your COMFORT ZONE behind and become a better Emergency Communicator for it.