

**Press Release**  
**Clallam County ARES Donation Information**

**Have you ever thought about how you would contact friends and family in an emergency/disaster (think earthquake) if your cell phone/internet would not work?** How could your city communicate with federal emergency agencies? Wonder if anyone is preparing for these events? Read on and learn who is, and how you can help.

The Clallam County Amateur Radio Emergency Services (CCARES) organization consists of a group of Ham radio operators who have undergone Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) training, and been vetted by the Clallam County Sheriff's office. Their mission is to provide auxiliary communications to support local emergency and disaster relief organizations when activated by county, state or federal emergency management agencies.

These operators are able to staff the county Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and Emergency Communications Centers (ECC) radio rooms. In the event of an emergency when extra support is needed, or when phone and internet services are unavailable, CCARES can provide voice and digital messaging with state and federal radio centers.

There are ECC radio rooms in fire stations, hospitals, the American Red Cross center and other sites throughout the north Olympic peninsula. The equipment used in these centers may be provided by a variety of city, county, and federal sources; but wiring, cables, connectors, etc. are often donated by the operators. The equipment is maintained and configured by these volunteer operators.

There is a western Washington 501(c)(3) non-profit umbrella that can accept tax-deductible donations of money, radios, etc. and forward the donation to our local Clallam County ARES group! If you would like to donate, please refer to the information at [www.wastateares.org/non-profit](http://www.wastateares.org/non-profit) (EIN 20-5472400), and be sure to indicate that your donation is intended for Clallam County ARES.

What will your money be used for? Much of the CCARES equipment is old and outdated. Agency budgets are always stretched thin, so updating this equipment is a low priority. In addition, CCARES would like to be able to equip a portable communications center to deploy as the EOC radio room when those buildings are damaged.

If a friend or family member ham operator no longer needs their radio equipment; please consider donating it to CCARES.

For federal income tax purposes, a contribution could be beneficial if you itemize deductions. If you are receiving required minimum distributions from an IRA, you could make a qualified charitable distribution, which is paid directly from the IRA to a qualified charity. See IRS Publication 590-B, Distributions from Individual Retirement Arrangements (IRAs) for additional information. Your qualified charitable distributions can satisfy all or part of the amount of your required minimum distribution from your IRA. For example, if your 2019 required minimum distribution was \$10,000, and you made a \$5,000 qualified charitable distribution for 2019, you would have had to withdraw another \$5,000 to satisfy your 2019 required minimum distribution. Talk to your tax advisor for full details.