

CERTIFICATION AND CREDENTIALING STANDARDS PROGRAM

November 30, 2011

Dear BCARES Member:

On behalf of the BCARES Board of Directors, I want to thank you for your commitment and participation in supporting the BCARES mission and contributing to its extraordinary successes over the past several decades. Our served agencies have bestowed upon us, awards, letters of commendation and individual awards in recognition of the time, effort and hard work that each of you has contributed to the safety and welfare of our fellow citizens throughout Boulder County and the State of Colorado.

With success and longevity comes change and our served agencies are evolving with new procedures, broader processes and in some instances entirely new requirements for the agencies with whom they rely upon during emergencies including BCARES. These changes have come from federal mandates, county and local procedure changes and the adoption of standardized national response policies. These new directives are changing the way our served agencies interact not only with themselves but with those partners who provide resources, technologies and in many instances, highly competent volunteers who respond without hesitation to emergency events throughout the County and State.

The greatest change we as members of BCARES are faced with is the requirement to be "Certified and Credentialed" in compliance with our served agencies. As emergency events have become larger and more dangerous, so too have the needs to be a safer volunteer and responder. Our served agencies have established new requirements which are designed to ensure that we are qualified to respond and competent to operate safely within the emergency environment.

To this end, the BCARES Board of Directors has evaluated these new requirements, compared them to our existing policies and directives and has concluded that we must adopt a new process that includes *Certification* and *Credentialing*. Certification is the means by which we will ensure that we are competent in the area of operations we will be assigned to. Examples of certifications include Net Control, Packet operation, ATV operation, Messaging, Repeater operations, etc. Credentialing ensures that we have satisfactorily passed required instruction such as certificates of course completion related to NIMS and ICS training, certificates for First Aid, CPR, and WEB-EOC training. These new procedures will help to ensure we remain competent and qualified to respond to local emergencies and widespread disasters.

Included with this letter you will find the following documents:

- The Certification and Credentialing Process

- A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the BCARES Member

The following documents must be provided to the BCARES membership committee within 60 days of the date of this letter. The documents required include:

- A completed and signed MOU (original)
- All NIMS/ICS training certificates you currently have as well as any new certificates that have replaced obsolete certifications.
- Any certifications for Emergency First Aid, CPR or AED operation.

Once the membership committee receives these documents, a new BCARES C&C Card will be issued with your BCARES classification and corresponding credentials noted on the reverse.

We are anticipating that all members will have their credentials updated and turned in by the end of January so that we can process everyone's documentation and issue new BCARES IDs.

Please review the attached material and if you have questions please contact any board member. This has been a long and tedious process but we are confident that these changes will ensure that we continue to be looked upon by our served agencies and the public at large as professional, competent and dedicated volunteers with the singular goal of providing emergency communications and critical information through our amateur radio technologies and solutions.

Thank you for serving and continuing to support both the success and growth of BCARES.

Sincerely,



Allen Bishop – KOARK
BCARES Chairman
District 11 EC

RETURN TO:

BCARES Membership
4773 Raven Run
Broomfield, CO 80023

Board of Directors:

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