

SEC Bulletin 007 – 14 June 2026

Our next Colorado ARES statewide training session is coming up in almost a month. Mark your calendar for Saturday, 7/18 at 09:00. This two-hour training session is all about ATV, that's Amateur Television. During this Zoom meeting session, you'll learn all about ATV, what equipment is used, and how ATV can be used to enhance situational awareness for our served agencies.

There is talk within the ham radio community that ARES is dead. Comments like this mostly come from hams who are not involved in ARES leadership and who are only listening to local repeaters looking for ARES activity. ARES is not dead, especially in Colorado. However, we do struggle with keeping ARES relevant in the 21st century. Our served agency partners have better technology available to them today than they did just 10 years ago.

ATV, or amateur television, is one of the capabilities ARES districts can bring to their served agencies partners that exceeds served agencies own technical capabilities. The old saying, "A picture is better than a thousand words" is true. ATV can bring live pictures and sound into an EOC or a command center. During our training we will also learn how R1D3 (Boulder & Broomfield ARES) uses ATV to support their served agency partners such as the Boulder Police Department and Boulder County's office of Disaster Management.

Following July's ATV training, our next section wide ARES training will be in October on the topic of APRS or Automatic Packet Reporting System. Bob Bruninga created APRS in the early 1980's as a way of using packet radio technology to report GPS positions. APRS does this and a lot more. The first hour of this training will provide an overview of APRS. During the second hour the developer of PinPoint software, Frank Watervoort AB0WV, will provide an introduction to his application which is a popular program for APRS mapping and much more.