

## Why might you want to get a ham radio license?

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Many of us know that ARES (Amateur Radio Emergency Service) members have their ham radio license and train for emergencies. That said, in a big emergency, there will not be enough ARES members available to handle all of the CERT groups, Red Cross requests, etc. In a widespread emergency, ARES deployment is requested by OR3, and Organizations send their request for an ARES radio operator up through that chain of command.

**So, what does your CERT or MURS neighborhood group do in an emergency? They have MURS radios and can talk amongst the group, but how do they get their requests out to emergency services if they don't have cell coverage?**

You might be surprised to hear that getting your Technician license is actually quite easy! I did it and had NO previous radio, electronics, etc. experience – I was a Business Manager and a musician! You can self-study with a book, use an online study course, or join an in-person study group either online or in person. It takes about 10 hours of study to pass the test (in person class is a little longer) – and after that, we will help train you to help your group in a disaster.

### Some resources:

**UPCOMING IN-PERSON CLASS AT THE SANTA CRUZ COUNTY EOC,**

**Taught by Bob Fike and Friends**

**5200 Soquel Ave, Santa Cruz 95062**

**6 Thursday nights, 6:30 pm to 9:30 pm; 4/17/25 to 5/22/25.**

**ARRL (Amateur Radio Study Guide - \$30) link:**

<https://tinyurl.com/4h7dfcxa>

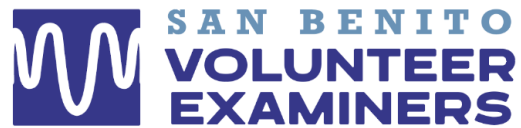
**Contact Roberta or Bob (bob@slvares) if interested or signup at**



<https://tinyurl.com/35avzt57>



<https://hamstudy.org/> - a free app that you can get on your mobile device or use on your computer. You can do study mode, read the questions or take practice tests. It drills you on the questions that you miss. They also list openings for testing.



<https://sbcara.org/ve/> This group of examiners has both online and in person testing, optionally paired with a “ham cram” or Zoom study session. They are very helpful, and their website has a lot of information on studying, cramming and testing.