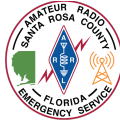## Objective

The purpose of this Standard Operating Guidelines (SOG) is to establish and maintain a uniform standard for the Santa Rosa County Citizen Corps team. This uniform standard is crucial for the effectiveness, safety, and professionalism of our team during events and incident response.

Uniform Components

- **T-Shirts:**
  - All team members should wear the issued Santa Rosa County ARES or CERT t-shirt, depending on their role during an event or incident.
    - Free shirts will be issued to <u>active</u> volunteers who participate in public service events, disaster response, and the firefighter rehab team.
  - Generic CERT and ARES shirts are acceptable; however, shirts with the Santa Rosa County logo are <u>preferred</u> when available.
- **Leadership Volunteers:**
  - Leadership volunteers should wear their issued polo shirts to distinguish their roles within the team.
    - ARES: White or blue polo with Santa Rosa County ARES logo
    - CERT: Safety green polo with CERT logo or other issued Public Safety logo shirt
- **Pants:**
  - Pants should be black, brown, or khaki in color. BDU style pants and jeans are also permitted.
- **Hats**
  - Plain, CERT, or ARES hats of any color may be worn. Hats promoting products should not be worn.
- **Footwear:**
  - Closed-toe shoes must be always worn for safety.
- **Safety Vests:**
  - Safety vests should display the CERT or ARES logo.
- **Identification Card:**
  - ID cards issued by Santa Rosa County Emergency Management should be worn on a lanyard around your neck, clipped to a belt loop, or placed in a pouch on your safety vest so that they are always visible to first responders while working an event or incident.
  - ID cards should only be worn when attending a meeting or volunteering at an official event or incident.
  - During disaster response activities, you may be asked by law enforcement to present your ID card at checkpoints should certain areas be closed due to flooding or roadway obstructions. You should only enter such areas if on an official assignment. ID cards may not be used for sightseeing.
  - Cards are issued upon completion of the Santa Rosa County Citizen Corps Code of Conduct and a basic background check by Santa Rosa County Human Resources.

Rationale for a Uniform Standard

A standardized uniform enhances team members' visibility and allows for quick identification during events and incidents. Wearing a standard uniform promotes a professional image and fosters trust and confidence in our team's capabilities within the community and among served agencies. It signifies that we are part of a dedicated, organized, and reliable team working towards the common goal of community safety and emergency response.

Use of Uniforms

While volunteers are encouraged to wear team shirts anytime to promote awareness of our teams, they should not wear vests, helmets, or other "duty" gear unless working an event in an "official" capacity. Please remember, we do not self-deploy to incidents or events.

Prohibited Items

Law enforcement style badges are **strictly prohibited.**

Official Santa Rosa County ARES & CERT Volunteer T-Shirts

Conclusion

A uniform standard for the Santa Rosa County Citizen Corps team is a vital component of our operational readiness. It ensures that our team is easily identifiable, maintains professionalism, promotes community awareness, and prioritizes safety during events and incidents.