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NEWSLETTER

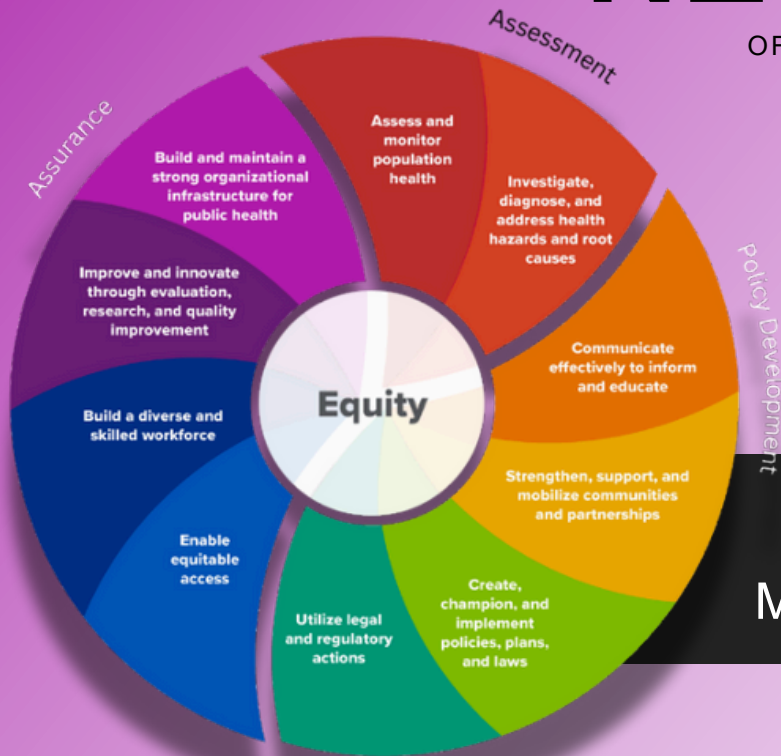
OF THE APPLETON PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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VISION: Health for all, together.

MISSION: Facilitate equitable community wellbeing through education, health promotion, and response to public health needs.

Collaborative Communication Structure during Disasters

10 Essential Public Health Services

Each month, the Appleton Health Department Newsletter features stories about how we are achieving each of the 10 Essential Public Health Services. This month, we focus on:

Essential Public Health Service # 10: Build and maintain a strong organizational infrastructure for public health

The Appleton Department of Public Health is strengthening its organizational infrastructure by collaborating with key community partners, including the Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD) and Amateur Radio Emergency Service/Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (ARES/RACES). These key partnerships improve Appleton's ability to respond quickly and effectively during emergencies while ensuring continuity of essential public health services.

VOAD brings together local nonprofits, faith-based groups, and community organizations that provide critical support like sheltering, food or even recovery assistance during disaster events. By coordinating with VOAD, the City of Appleton can ensure that vulnerable populations receive timely help and that community resources are deployed efficiently.

Meanwhile, ARES/RACES volunteers are licensed amateur radio operators trained to provide backup communication in emergencies. Their technical expertise and rapid response enhances our ability to respond swiftly and effectively during events such as natural disasters, sheltering operations, or other public health crises especially when communications infrastructure become damaged or overloaded.

Together, these collaborations are central to the department's preparedness and response plans. By participating in these collaborations, the City of Appleton is not only improving its operational resilience but also fostering a network of community collaboration that enhances public health and safety across the city.

Community Partners



Wisconsin ARES/RACES

The City of Appleton proudly maintains a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with ARES/RACES (Amateur Radio Emergency Service/Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service), a volunteer group supporting emergency communications. ARES/RACES assists not only during disasters but also provides vital communication support for community events such as the Fox Cities Marathon and local fundraisers. Members possess, or are working towards, amateur radio licenses, bringing valuable technical skills and a commitment to public service.

Locally, amateur radio equipment is deployed at all hospitals, and in Appleton there are six portable radios and the team shares a command trailer with Outagamie County Emergency Management (as pictured below). The East Central District ARES/RACES Team partners annually with emergency management partners for joint training and simulation exercises to ensure effective disaster response.

We extend our gratitude to ARES/RACES volunteers for their dedication, teamwork, and ongoing support of Appleton's emergency preparedness.

Pictured right: ARES/RACES members set up the command trailer's radio antenna



Meet Stan Piekarczyk

Meet Stan Piekarczyk, one of Wisconsin East Central's dedicated ARES/RACES members with over two decades of service and a true passion for radio communication. Stan got his Amateur Radio Operator license back in 1994 while serving in the U.S. Air Force in California. He joined the Air Force at 21 and proudly served for 22 years. When he retired in 1999, he told his wife she could pick their next home and when Appleton ranked #1 place to live, Wisconsin won!

Once here, Stan found the ARES/RACES team to be organized, welcoming, and ready for action. His favorite parts? Storm spotting and public service activities. Stan especially enjoys leading training sessions, helping new members and partner agencies master the art of clear communication during emergencies.

From keeping an eye on severe weather to marathon communications, Stan and his teammates make sure help is just a radio call away.

When he's not on the airwaves, Stan's outside tending his garden, fishing, or hunting. This year, his tomato crop was a huge success! Also, fun fact about Stan is while in California, he once reeled in a leopard shark!

Thanks, Stan, for keeping Appleton safe, connected, and always ready to communicate!



Resources

[Board of Health Calendar](#)



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

