Yolo County ARES and Amateur Radio

A Communications Safety Net

Yolo County ARES
www.yoloares.org
Presentation Overview

- Introductions
- What is Amateur Radio?
- Amateur Radio Emergency Services (ARES)
- Why does Amateur Radio work *When All Else Fails*?
- Amateur Radio and the Red Cross
- Questions and Answers…
What is Amateur Radio?

Amateur Radio Today DVD

Available at: http://youtu.be/5Z9136_Nhh4
Amateur Radio Emergency Service

- The Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) consists of more than 40,000 licensed amateurs

- ARES provides an organized pool of communication operators to provide reliable communications links for governmental agencies and/or non-profit organizations
Yolo ARES Communications Capabilities

- ARES has the capabilities to:
  - quickly create a communications network
  - provide communications at:
    - local level
    - county or state wide
    - world wide if necessary

- Each ARES member is able to operate independently and *effectively* from most locations.
Yolo ARES – Red Cross & City of Davis

- Yolo ARES has provided Red Cross with communication links:
  - between shelters and chapter houses
  - support for damage assessment
  - supply handling and logistics
  - health and welfare messages

- Yolo ARES with the City of Davis Fire Department & CERT
  - Installed antennas, coax, and power supplies at every fire station and the EOC
When All Else Fails...

ARES made a difference during the recent hurricanes.

- Immediately at the onset of Hurricane Katrina, over 1,000 FCC-licensed Amateur Radio operators provided continuous communications for state, local, and federal emergency workers in and around the affected areas in Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama.
Emergency Communications

“In an emergency, communications is essential and time is the greatest value”

“The ability to gather information is the difference between life and death.”

Kentucky Governor Ernie Fletcher
Amateur Radio works...

Hams were heros during Oregon flooding

“I’m going to tell you that the heroes from the beginning of this, were the ham radio operators. These people just came in and actually provided a tremendous communication link to us.”

Oregon Governor Ted Kulongoski
Amateur Radio works...

- Amateur Radio assisted during the 2012 Colorado fires setting up portable radio repeaters and relaying messages between the fire lines and command posts
Yolo County Power Outage 2008

- Yolo County ARES and Amateur radio provided needed communication links:
  - between shelters and chapter house
  - supply handling and logistics
  - health and welfare messages
Communications failure is serious

Scenarios where backup communications can be vital:

- Internal or external telephone failure
- Mass casualty incident, causing overload of telephone system
- Area-wide disaster (e.g. earthquake, flood) resulting in widespread phone outage
When all Else Fails...

Amateur radio and ARES provide vital communications for public events such as:

- Davis Double Century
- Foxy Fall
- Tevis Cup
- Western States Endurance Run
- Cache Creek Trail Ride
Amateur Operators In Davis & Woodland

285 Amateur Radio Operators in Davis and Woodland
Amateur Radio during an Emergency

- Questions and Answers...
Yolo County ARES Contact Info

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