ARES and Amateur Radio

A Communications Safety Net

Sacramento Valley Section
Amateur Radio Emergency Service
www.sacvalleyares.org
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?

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 communication links for governmental agencies and/or non-profit organizations
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.
ARES and Red Cross

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
When All Else Fails...

ARES made a difference during 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
Butte Fire 2015- 5 days at Shelter
Oroville Dam Response

- 188,000 people were given a mandatory evacuation notice in Butte, Yuba and Sutter county
Oroville Dam Response – Nets

- Yuba Sutter EC Steve K6TAZ started an information net lending assistance during the evacuation
Oroville Dam Response - Shelters

- Butte County ARES responded to the Red Cross shelter in Chico for 9 days
Oroville Dam Response

- 870 people registered at the Chico Shelter

Supporting a shelter takes people and materials
When all Else Fails...

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
Learn more about ARES

The Sacramento Valley ARES web site
- http://www.sacvalleyares.org

The ARRL web site has more information
- http://www.arrl.org/ares
Amateur Radio during an Emergency

- Questions and Answers..
Contact Information

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More information at our web site:
www.sacvalleyares.org