Amateur Radio during an Emergency

American Red Cross
Yolo County Chapter

Yolo County ARES
Class Overview

- Introductions
- What is Amateur Radio?
- Amateur Radio Emergency Services
- Why does Amateur Radio work when all else fails?
- Amateur Radio and the Red Cross
- Getting your Amateur Radio license
- Questions and Answers…
- Demonstration of Amateur Radio
What is Amateur Radio?

Amateur Radio Today DVD

Link to on-line version of video
http://www.arrl.org/video/amateur_radio_today.mpg
The Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) consists of more than 35,000 licensed amateurs. ARES provides an organized pool of communication operators to provide reliable communications links for governmental agencies and/or non-profit organizations when needed.
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

- Yolo ARES can assist the Red Cross
- ARES can provide 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 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.”
Amateur Radio works...

- Amateur Radio worked during the 2008 Southern California Fires
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
Getting your Amateur License

- What is required to get a Amateur Radio License?
- One day class and testing session
  March 1, 2008
- Materials to help you prepare for the test…
- On-line test practice
What is required to get a License?

- To get your **technician’s license**, you have to pass an exam consisting of 35 multiple-choice questions.

  If you answer 74% or more correctly, you’re a ham!
Materials to help you prepare...

Print Material:

- The ARRL Ham Radio License Manual
  -- All you need to become an Amateur Radio Operator

- Amateur Radio Technician Class Study Guide
  http://studyguide.eqth.infoElement2_Study_Guide.pdf
On-line Resources:

- Practice tests that are available from many sources. All of the practice tests ask the EXACTLY same questions, but they use different formats to present the questions and answers.
  - www.aa9pw.com
  - www.qrz.com
  - www.eham.net

- Download all of the multiple-choice questions and answers
Materials to help you prepare...

More on-line Resources:

- Yolo County Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES)
  www.yoloares.org

- Yolo County Amateur Radio Society (YARS)
  www.yars.org

- American Radio Relay League (ARRL)
  www.arrl.org

- Hello Radio (ARRL)
  www.hello-radio.org

- Emergency-Radio (ARRL)
  emergency-radio.org
Questions and Answers…

If you have questions while you are studying you can email:

kg6sjt@gmail.com
Amateur Radio Demonstration

- A hands-on look at Red Cross & amateur radios...

- Talk to a ham radio operator today!

Say Hello!