



City of Malibu

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Ham Radios in Disasters

Ham radios continue to demonstrate their value in disasters. During the recent hurricane season 500 ham radio operators provided emergency communications in the devastated areas of the southeast United States while other communications systems were still being repaired. Hundreds more provided assistance right from their homes by relaying messages to families around the country. These Amateur Radio operators may also work in shelters, Emergency Operations Centers and temporary “field” locations during disasters. Because of their communications work, hundreds of lives have been saved.

Malibu is no stranger to ham radio, and has a choice of systems: a “local” system which can operate from the Ventura County line to the Pacific Palisades, and a series of systems which can communicate much further. The local system, the City of Malibu’s own “Neighborhood Network”, is comprised of Malibu residents who are licensed ham radio operators. From their home locations across Malibu these people can be in touch with City Hall during a disaster to relay information and request help or additional supplies.

Also ready to assist are the Sheriff Department’s own Disaster Communications Service (DCS) volunteers. These men and women operate several radio systems on behalf of the Sheriff’s Department, assisting first responders with communications needs. They may be located at City Hall or at other locations in Malibu, and can ensure that the City’s communications conduit to emergency services remains in place.

For more information about the Malibu Neighborhood Network, or to find out more about using 2 way radios in disasters, contact Brad Davis, the Emergency Preparedness Coordinator at the City of Malibu on 456-2489 extension 260.

For more information about the Sheriff’s Disaster Communications Service, go to www.lacdcs.org.

