Emergency Radio Communications

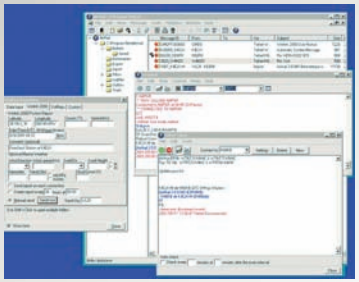
The Amateur Radio Service is one of the radio services internationally recognized by the ITU. It benefits from a share of the precious spectrum, and from specific privileges, which make it the most flexible and versatile of all telecommunication services. It has earned its status due to its roles in education, development, and research, but most of all due to its role as a public service.

Amateur Radio operators are unpaid volunteers who use their own equipment to provide communications for rescue and response organizations. Because most Amateur Radio equipment is portable and can be battery powered, radio hams can quickly deploy into disaster areas. Because of their practice and study of wireless technology, radio hams can establish voice and digital communications systems even in the worst of situations.

To learn more about Amateur Radio in your country and its emergency capabilities, go to:

www.IARU.org/Emergency
or
www.Emergency-Radio.org

Re-Link to the Digital World



Amateur Radio's digital communication capabilities have evolved rapidly within the last decade. Modern applications provide the ability to send e-mail to and from the Internet from very remote locations. Amateur Radio's keyboard-to-keyboard digital communications work in very weak signal conditions. Real time resource mapping and tracking and Amateur Radio's digital voice and data communications offer "last mile" solutions for providing Internet access to served agencies within disrupted areas.

Established in Paris in 1925, the International Amateur Radio Union is the watchdog and representative for the world Amateur Radio community. Three regional IARU organizations correspond to the three radio regions of the **International Telecommunication Union** (**ITU**).

For more information, please contact the

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Newington, CT, 06131-0905, USA,

***www.iaru.org**, or the IARU International*

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The International Amateur Radio Union

Emergency Radio Communications

***Tonight we haven't slept** because many earthquakes keep moving the bed. A few numbers for you: 67 communities are involved with a total of 15,000 refugees into the tents today. 70 hams are providing service with about 2,000 other volunteers in 12 different associations. At Misericordie we are working the organization and logistics for 5 camps (about 4,000 people) with 550 volunteers and 106 off-road vehicles and ambulances.*

From report of Marco Barberi, IK5BHN, after Italian earthquake

***When the earthquake struck** in China's Sichuan Province, the windows of Liu Hu's office suddenly shattered. The quake kept rumbling and only stopped several breathless minutes later. Liu emerged and immediately got on a portable ham radio. Other Amateur Radio operators of the network around Sichuan Province quickly began to send quake information and damage reports. More than 200 radio hams answered his call.*

From report of Liu Hu of the Sichuan Amateur Radio Emergency Service Command Center, China

You have built a wonderful system for telecommunications. It provides voice and digital communications for your citizens. But then …

in a few nightmare minutes it is shattered.

Now what will you do?

The Amateur Radio Service, also known as "ham radio," has consistently been the most reliable means of communications in emergencies when other systems failed or were overloaded.

Simply stated—Amateur Radio Works!

Most of the time, normal communications systems work fine. But despite the development of very complex systems—or maybe because they *are* so complex—they can be fragile, and Amateur Radio has been called into action again and again to provide backup communications in major disasters.

Why Amateur Radio Works So Well—

Telephones, cell phones, Internet, trunk lines, satellite phones—to get a message out they all have to go through many vulnerable choke points and depend on the power network. And even if these systems are functioning, they can be overwhelmed by the number of calls for help and people seeking information.

In an emergency, when your family's lives may be at risk, you want communications systems to be available no matter what.

Hams are resourceful.

While hams MAY use and link to the Internet, satellites or a repeater system, they do not HAVE to do so! Hams can "go direct" and communicate straight through to each other because each station is fully independent. Hams can operate just fine without other infrastructure and many of their stations are powered by other means than public networks. They can use frequencies in the HF, VHF or UHF bands. Using HF capabilities (3 to 30 MHz), they have passed messages out of even the most remote disaster locations. By selecting the right frequencies, hams can talk and send data, messages and even pictures across town or around the world. With its skilled operators, The Amateur Radio Service can provide local, regional and global networks under the most challenging conditions.

The fastest way to turn a crisis into a disaster is to lose communications.

With their radio, a piece of wire and a battery, hams will find a way to communicate.

www.IARU.org/Emergency
or
www.Emergency-Radio.org