



Press Release

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Ham Radio Operators Demonstrate Modern Emergency Capabilities

75th Public Demo of Emergency Communications June 23-24

Rio Rancho, NM –Amateur Radio operators across the country have been providing emergency communications when other systems fail or become overloaded in a crisis. Each year in June, they take their equipment into unusual locations to test and make sure Ham Radio will always be there to get the message through. This year, in their 75th “Field Day” exercise, thousands of Ham Radio operators will be showing off their emergency capabilities.

On June 23, the public will have a chance to meet and talk with ham radio operators from the Sandoval County Amateur Radio Emergency Service (SCARES) and see for themselves what the Amateur Radio Service is about. Showing the newest digital, voice communications and even historical Morse code, hams from across the USA will be holding public demonstrations of emergency communications abilities.

This annual event, called "Field Day" is the climax of the week long "Amateur Radio Week" sponsored by the ARRL, the national association for Amateur Radio. Using only emergency power supplies, ham operators will construct emergency stations in parks, shopping malls, schools and back yards around the country. Their slogan, "Ham radio works when other systems don't! " is more than just words to the hams as they prove they can send messages in many forms without the use of phone systems, internet or any other infrastructure that can be compromised in a crisis. More than 30,000 amateur radio operators across the country participated in last year's event.

Through the ARRL, ham volunteers provide emergency communications for the DHS, Red Cross, Salvation Army, FEMA and thousands of state and local agencies, all for free. "We hope that people will come and see for themselves just what services we offer in an emergency," said Mike Scales, SCARES President. "The communications networks that ham radio people can quickly create have saved many lives when other systems failed or were overloaded. We have put new systems in place just this year that allow us to do an even better job communicating in a disaster.”

SCARES has been active this year, supporting emergency and community communications:

- February 27 – Pueblo of San Felipe grass/riverbed fire,
- March 22 – Eastern New Mexico tornado outbreak,

- May 8 –Sandoval County telephone system outage and 911 service disruption,
- May 9 – Sunset Mesa School’s interviewed of astronaut Suni Williams aboard the International Space Station via ham radio,
- May 12 – Tour for the Cure Communications Support,
- June 6 – Jemez Falls Campground fire, and
- June 9 – Sandoval and Santa Fe County tornados.

Beginning at noon on the 23rd, SCARES will be demonstrating Amateur Radio at Rio Rancho Public Schools Administration Building parking lot at 500 Laser Road, Rio Rancho, NM 87124, just off Quantum Road. They invite the public to come and see ham radio’s capabilities and learn how to get their own FCC radio license before the next disaster strikes. SCARES hosts entry and advanced level classes throughout the year.

To learn more about Amateur Radio, go to www.emergency-radio.org. The public is most cordially invited to come, meet and talk with the hams. See what modern Amateur Radio can do. They can even help you get on the air!

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NOTE: Amateur Radio Emergency Service and ARES are registered trademarks of the American Radio Relay League.

For More information on amateur radio and emergency service, see:

Sandoval County ARES – www.nmscares.org
Albuquerque NWS Skywarn/WX5ABQ –
www.srh.noaa.gov/abq/skywarn/skywarn.htm
American Radio Relay League – www.arrl.org
ARES – www.arrl.org/ares
Skywarn – www.skywarn.net

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www.emergency-radio.org