

LOCAL LEADERS INVITED TO LEARN THE CAPABILITIES OF AMATEUR RADIO FOR EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS

Amateur Radio "Field Day" - June 22 and 23- Will Focus on Skill, Service, Science
When traditional methods of communication fail

WHO/WHAT Members of the Fort Myers Amateur Radio Club Inc. will be participating in the national amateur radio Field Day exercise. Since 1933, ham radio operators across North America have established temporary ham radio stations in public locations during Field Day to showcase the science and skill of amateur radio. This event operates from 10 am on Saturday until 2 pm on Sunday and is open to the public. All are encouraged to attend.

WHEN: Saturday June 22, Presentation for Government Officials at 11 am at both locations

WHERE: North Fort Myers Community Park

2000 Recreation Park Way
North Fort Myers, 33903

Tice Firehouse Station #201
9351 Workmen Way
Fort Myers, FL 33905

WHY: Amateur Radio operators establish and manage communication networks locally to assist governmental and emergency officials, as well as to facilitate non-commercial communication for private citizens affected by disasters. These operators are crucial during disasters that disrupt regular communication lines due to power outages and the destruction of telephone, cellular, and other infrastructure-dependent systems.

The Amateur Radio Emergency Services (ARES) is a public service organization sponsored by the American Radio Relay League (ARRL). ARES members are licensed Amateur Radio operators who volunteer their skills and equipment to provide emergency communications and support public service events. Membership in the ARRL or any amateur radio club is not required to join ARES; it is open to all licensed Amateur Radio operators.

In Lee County, Florida, ARES collaborates closely with the county Emergency Management organization. A key role of ARES in this area is to provide backup communications in shelters and with first responders during catastrophic communication failures. Many radio amateurs volunteer as communications support for local public safety organizations. Additionally, during some disasters, when radio frequencies are not coordinated among relief officials, Amateur Radio operators step in to facilitate communication, especially when radio towers and other communication infrastructure are compromised.

For more information about ARRL Field Day or amateur radio, contact Jon Scharbrough at field-day@fmarc.net or Lee County ARES (Amateur Radio Emergency Service) at <https://leearcs.com>.