



For Immediate Release
Fort Myers Amateur Radio Club, Inc.
Fort Myers, Florida
Contact: Daniel Eaton
Public Information Officer
pio@fmarc.net
239-425-7914

Why Every Neighborhood Should Know a Local Amateur Radio Operator

Is Your Community Prepared for the Next Hurricane?

FORT MYERS, FL (February 11, 2025) When disaster strikes, reliable communication can mean the difference between chaos and coordination. In Florida, where hurricanes often knock out power, internet and cellphone service, amateur radio operators—known as hams—provide a critical lifeline. Every neighborhood should identify and support local ham operators as part of its emergency preparedness plan.

Hams are licensed volunteers who can relay messages across the country without relying on cellular networks or the internet. This means that after a storm, when conventional communication systems fail, they can help residents send messages to loved ones or request emergency assistance.

How It Works

Hams use a nationwide system called the National Traffic System, which allows them to pass written messages, known as radiograms, in an organized manner across the country. This system operates daily, except Sundays, and can be fully mobilized in emergencies, ensuring rapid communication even when cell towers and internet lines are down.

What Your Neighborhood Can Do

- Identify local ham operators who can serve as points of contact after a disaster. Reach out to the Fort Myers Amateur Radio Club at fmarc.net or call 941-275-9145 to learn more.
- Establish an emergency communication plan that includes ham radio as a backup system.
- Encourage residents to get licensed—it's easier than you think and an invaluable asset in an emergency.
- Support local training and drills to keep your community prepared.

Why It Matters

In Southwest Florida, post-hurricane chaos is a reality. Being cut off from loved ones or unable to call for help can be terrifying. By working with local ham operators, your neighborhood can maintain a vital safety link when it's needed most.

Don't wait for the next storm—take action now. Connect with a local ham and help your community stay safe, resilient and ready.

About FMARC

Founded in 1957, the Fort Myers Amateur Radio Club has long been a hub for ham radio enthusiasts, fostering camaraderie and advancing the art and science of amateur radio. FMARC is dedicated to promoting good radio operating practices, sharing knowledge and providing critical public service support during emergencies.

As an affiliate of the American Radio Relay League, the national association for amateur radio, FMARC connects local operators with resources, events and a nationwide community of enthusiasts.

For more information, visit www.fmarc.net or email education@fmarc.net.

#30#



Kathy KQ4SYA (left) and Tom Provenzano KM4LPW put their skills to the test during Winter Field Day in North Fort Myers on Jan. 25. This annual event, held on the last full weekend of January, challenges amateur radio operators to set up and operate in off-grid conditions—just as they would during an emergency. From remote locations, hams connect with participants worldwide, honing their ability to communicate when power and internet are down. Using a local network to log contacts, these operators ensure they’re ready when disaster strikes.



Sample of the “Marconigram” the early days of sending messages from first-class passengers aboard transcontinental vessels at sea to shore stations. Traditionally sent by morse code, today’s radiograms use a mixture of CW (morse), voice, and text. Formal written messages can be sent post-storm letting your out-of-town family know you’re well and safe.