



Press Release
For Immediate Release

***Fremont Amateur "HAM" Radio Enthusiasts Ready to
Test Skills during Emergency Preparedness Event***

FREMONT, California, June 7, 2010 -- On June 26th and 27th, Thousands of Ham Radio operators will be showing off their emergency capabilities. Over the past year, the news has been full of reports of ham radio operators providing critical communications in emergencies including the California wildfires, Midwestern tornadoes and other events world-wide. During The Gulf Oil Leak, Hurricane Katrina, Amateur Radio – often called "Ham Radio" - was often the ONLY way people could communicate, and hundreds of volunteer "hams" traveled to affected areas to save lives and property. When trouble is brewing, ham radio people are often the first to establish communications and provide critical information. During the weekend of June 26th and 27th, the public will have a chance to meet and talk with these ham radio operators and see for themselves what the Amateur Radio Service is about.

SBARA will be using the newest digital and satellite capabilities, voice communications and even historical Morse code, hams from across the USA will be holding public demonstrations of emergency communications. **June 20th – 27th, 2010 is National Amateur Radio Week!**

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, ham operators will construct and maintain emergency stations in parks, shopping malls, schools and back yards around the country. Our slogan, **"Ham radio works when other systems don't!"** It is more than just words to the hams as they prove they can communicate 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 annual event.

"We hope that people will come and see for themselves, this is not your grandfather's radio anymore," said Allen Pitts of the ARRL. "The communication networks that ham radio operators quickly create have saved many lives in the past months when other systems failed or were overloaded." "In the Tri-City area, the South Bay Amateur Radio Association, SBARA will be demonstrating Amateur Radio at Fremont's Central Park which is conveniently located at the intersection of Paseo Padre Parkway and Sailway Drive." SBARA invites the public to come and see ham radio's new capabilities and learn how to get their own FCC radio license before another disaster strikes. Said Al Rendon, SBARAs Affairs Officer.

Currently, there are more than 650,000 Amateur Radio licensees in the United States, and more than 2.5 million around the world. Through the ARRL's ARES and Fremont's CERT programs, Fremont and other Tri-City ham volunteers provide emergency communications for thousands of state and local emergency response agencies, all for free.

To learn more about Amateur Radio, go to www.emergency-radio.org and the ARRL at www.arrl.org. The public is most cordially invited to come to SBARAs Field Day set-up, 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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