

# NEWS

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Sunnyvale Amateur Radio Emergency Service

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

June 12, 2006

## **AMATEUR RADIO EMERGENCY SERVICE OPERATORS TO TEST THEIR SKILLS**

SUNNYVALE, Calif. – Amateur Radio ("ham") operators across the country will leave their home-based radio "shacks" for a weekend of emergency preparedness activities June 24 and 25. This annual event, known as "Field Day," is designed to test operators' skills in setting up and operating emergency radio communication systems in situations where electrical power is limited or unavailable, and normal communications systems have been compromised or are non-existent. The objective is to simulate the conditions that can occur during an earthquake, flood, hurricane or other emergency, including man-made disasters. The Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) is part of the American Radio Relay League (ARRL) – the national association for amateur radio. The first Field Day took place in 1933, and ARES was established in 1935.

During Field Day, operators set up radio transmitting and receiving equipment in remote areas, local parks, shopping malls, or even in backyards, and begin transmitting using generators, batteries, or solar power to run their equipment. This type of exercise, along with the operators' dedication to public service, allows hams to step in and assist local agencies when disaster strikes. Cell phones, the Internet, and other communications technologies have yet to replace what amateur radio operators and ARES can do: they have a long track record of getting the message through when all other systems fail. Hams were commended for their vital contributions during Hurricane Katrina, as well as countless other disasters.

**Sunnyvale Amateur Radio Emergency Service – SARES – will conduct Field Day simulated emergency communications from Raynor Park, 1565 Quail Ave., Sunnyvale. The exercise will run from noon Saturday until 11AM Sunday.** In past years, more than 30,000 amateur radio operators in the United States and Canada have taken part in Field Day. Today there are almost 700,000 Amateur Radio operators in the United States and more than 2.5 million worldwide.