



**Press Release  
For Immediate Release**

***Fremont Amateur Radio Enthusiasts Ready to  
Test Skills during Annual Emergency Preparedness Exercise***

**FREMONT, California**, June 20, 2009 -- On June 27<sup>th</sup>. and 28<sup>th</sup>, Amateur Radio ("ham") operators across the country will leave the comfort of their home-based radio "shacks" for a weekend of emergency preparedness activity called "Field Day." The event is designed to test operators' skills in setting up and operating radio communication equipment in situations where electrical power is limited or unavailable. The idea is to simulate the conditions that can occur during natural disasters; hurricane, earthquake, flood, and man-made. The event is sponsored by the ARRL -- the national association for Amateur Radio. The first Field Day took place in 1933.

During Field Day, operators set up radio transmitting and receiving equipment in local parks, at shopping malls or even in backyards, and get on the air using generators, battery or solar power to run their equipment. This type of exercise, along with the operators' dedication to public service, allows them to step in and help emergency officials and relief organizations when disaster strikes. Cell phones, the Internet and other communications technologies have yet to replace what Amateur Radio operators can do. They have a long track record of getting the message through when all other systems fail!

This year, the South Bay Amateur Radio Club (SBARA) will be holding its preparedness exercise at Central Park in Fremont, on Saturday June 27<sup>th</sup>. and Sunday June 28<sup>th</sup>. Central Park is located on Paseo Padre Parkway and Sailway Drive.

There are 654,000 Amateur Radio operators in the US, and more than 2.5 million around the world. Through the ARRL, ham volunteers provide emergency communications for the Department of Homeland Security, HS Citizens' Corps such as CERT, FEMA, Salvation Army, and hundreds of state and local agencies, all free of any charges. Said Al Rendon, SBARA's Affairs Officer.

To learn more about Amateur Radio, go to [www.WeDoThat-Radio.org](http://www.WeDoThat-Radio.org). Mayor Wasserman, Fremont's City Cabinet and the public is most cordially invited to come, meet and talk with the hams. See what modern Amateur Radio can do. SBARA can even help you get on the air!

***Next week June 21-28 is National Amateur Radio Week!***

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