

Press Release

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“RADIO HAMS” FROM TARRANT COUNTY JOIN IN NATIONAL DEPLOYMENT

A Unique Look at Emergency Communications

FORT WORTH, TEXAS, JUNE 16, 2013. Ham radio operators from Tarrant County will join with thousands of other Amateur Radio Operators who will be showing off their emergency capabilities the weekend of June 22-23. This annual event, called “Field Day” will feature ham operators using emergency power supplies operating amateur radio stations in parks, malls, schools and back yards across the nation to demonstrate emergency communications abilities. Their slogan, “When All Else Fails, Ham Radio Works” is more than just words to the hams, as they prove they can send messages in many forms without the use of phone systems, Internet, or any other infrastructure that can be compromised in a crisis.

At least one group does it a little differently. That group is the volunteer team of amateur radio operators that go to the National Weather Service during severe weather to act as a liaison between the National Weather Service and the amateur radio spotter groups in the field.

“During this time of the year, we can have thunderstorms pop up quickly and members of our team head to the National Weather Service,” said Michael Heskett, WB5QLD, coordinator for the team. “Not only do we have to consider the general public, we have a lot of ham radio operators in the field that need to know about the potential for lightning and heavy rain. We have seen, recently, what can happen if people don’t get the word about severe weather. So a couple of years ago, we decided to conduct our Field Day from the NWS, where we can more quickly provide information to those radio operators in the field, as well as have reports from the field for the NWS. If there is no serious or severe weather, we can have a little fun enjoying Field Day and making radio contacts all over the country.”

In addition to providing communications between North Texas spotter groups and the National Weather Service, Heskett said his volunteer group will provide information and backup communications for the National Weather Service - Southern Region Headquarters and the forecast offices throughout the Southern Region’s area of responsibility during hurricanes.

To learn more about the WX5FWD SKYWARN Team, go to:

<http://wx5fwd.org/>

To learn more about Amateur Radio, go to:

<http://www.emergency-radio.org>