

Neighborhood Hamwatch

An opportunity for all amateur radio operators to support local neighborhoods during times when regular communication systems such as telephones and cell phones are interrupted.

Activities include relaying information to and from City and County Emergency Operations Centers that are equipped with amateur radio stations and amateur radio operators using simplex or local repeater networks.



Neighborhood Hamwatch

Neighborhood Hamwatch benefits from the endorsement by local amateur radio clubs and organizations to help get the word out to hams in the community.

Neighborhood Hamwatch is not itself an organization or club. It is simply a way for all amateur radio operators to take part in providing service to their neighbors and each other during times when normal communication systems are inoperable.

Neighborhood Hamwatch



Amateur Radio Operators voluntarily serving the communication needs of their friends and neighbors in times of emergency.

Your community Neighborhood Hamwatch benefits from the endorsement by local amateur radio clubs.

www.hamwatch.org

When all else fails. . .



Hams set-up radio gear in minutes.

That's a powerful statement... When all else fails.

Amateur Radio Operators are licensed by the Federal Communications Commission to communicate on "Ham" radio bands using radio, television, and internet linked technology.

What makes them different from professional communications operators? One simple thing. Amateur Radio Operators do it for free. They do it for fun. They do it because they enjoy studying and exploring wireless communication as a hobby. They act voluntarily.

And when and *only* when, all else fails their neighbors and friends, they rally to the challenge of helping put people back in contact so they can survive emergencies. When the lights go out and phones go dead, if you have a neighbor who is an amateur radio operator, you can still keep informed with their help.

Who do Hams talk to?

In times of emergency or extended periods of loss of conventional communication systems such as telephones and cell phones, Amateur Radio Operators can still talk to each other. And they can usually talk to city and county government officials who have amateur radio stations located in their Emergency Operations Centers.

What can Hams do?

Amateur Radio Operators can relay information about the condition and needs of the neighborhood to city and county Emergency Operations Centers equipped with amateur radio stations. This keeps local government officials informed about conditions in populated areas so they can make better decisions. Information helpful to citizens can also be relayed from the EOC to local neighborhoods with amateur radio operators, such as when relief might be expected, special instructions for safety and sanitation, and other information unique to the emergency at hand. The system also serves to simply maintain contact with others in order to reduce the negative psychological impact of communication isolation.



Mobile Communications Stations can be used to demonstrate amateur radio and interest new hams.

If you are a "Ham" what can you do?

There are absolutely NO exclusions to membership in **Neighborhood HamWatch**, other than you must be currently licensed by the Federal Communications Commission as an Amateur Radio Operator. No special training or vetting requirements are specified in a deliberate effort to maximize participation, considered the single most important ingredient to achieving an emergency communication net that blankets local communities to serve every citizen. Neighborhood HamWatch is not a club. It is not an exclusionary organization. It is a system that encourages and provides all amateur radio operators with a means of using their equipment and skills to stay in contact when conventional means of communication are inoperable.

It is very helpful if local amateur radio clubs make club repeaters and nets available during times of need although simplex communication is encouraged to reduce dependence on resources that might go down.

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Andy Gausz KG4QCD created the **Neighborhood HamWatch** idea. For more information contact him at kg4qcd@arrl.net, or any amateur radio operator.