



Lake County
Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service ®
Amateur Radio Emergency Services ®
1303 North Milwaukee Avenue
Libertyville, IL 60048



For More Information:
Jerry Martin, KC9BDA
RACES Public Information Officer
kc9bda@earthlink.net

For Immediate Release

New Class of Emergency Communicators Deal With . . . Severe Earthquake In Lake Zurich??

Libertyville, Illinois, December 10, 2005 – Saturday was “Graduation Day” for a group of amateur radio operators who just completed an intense five week course of study in Emergency Communications, (EmCom). They put their new found skills to work during a recent simulated emergency test (S.E.T.) after Lake Zurich experienced a severe (simulated) 6.6 magnitude earthquake, which had a rippling effect, causing widespread damage throughout Lake County.

The training was hosted by the Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Services (R.A.C.E.S.) group, which operates under the direction of the Lake County Sheriff’s Emergency Management Agency (EMA); who deployed these emergency communicators to setup a radio network and coordinate the necessary information for those areas affected by the damage.

“Buildings collapsed in Gurnee; electrical power outages everywhere; bridges were down causing secondary flooding of the Des Plaines River, which then displacing thousands from their homes. We had to really scramble to set up voice and data communications between several shelters and also with the local hospitals” sited Jerry Martin (KC9BDA), RACES Board Member and Public Information Officer (PIO) for the group. “Having our annual disaster exercise as a final part of this class was a wonderful collaboration of Bruce Becker (N9VID) RACES Radio Officer; Don Whitney (K9DRW), Emergency Coordinator; and Dave Hartnett (K9DRH), a seasoned veteran of many national disaster relief operations, and who taught this EmComm class.” Martin explained. “It gave everyone an opportunity to see what went well, and also what may need a little more work.”

During the gulf coast hurricanes this past summer, it was emergency communicators such as these, who helped pass thousands of critical life saving messages when this was the only available means. “Local telephone, cellular, and public service radios where either overloaded or failed completely. It was the amateur radio operators who had the capability to get the messages through”, sites David Christensen, Director of the Lake County Sheriff’s Emergency Management Agency, who also participated in the Mississippi hurricane relief this fall. “We are very fortunate to have these well trained and very experienced members volunteer for our community. Of course we hope we never have to deploy them for an actual disaster, but it’s comforting to know they are always there when you need them.”

- more -



Lake County
Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service ®
Amateur Radio Emergency Services ®
1303 North Milwaukee Avenue
Libertyville, IL 60048



Jerry Martin (KC9BDA) summed it up this way. “This once again shows an example where amateur radio can be a very interesting hobby and also a dedicated service to our community”.

Congratulations to the members of this graduating EmCom class: Bernard H. Moritz Jr (K9BHM) Wauconda, James Reynolds (KB9LQH) Third Lake, Henry T. Sahler III (N9NOX) Zion, David Zawrotny (N9YMW) Lake Villa, Bob Lee (K9LEE) Grayslake, Joel Kogen (KB9WWZ) Deerfield, John Kastak (N9NLC) Palos Heights, Jan Sharp (KB3ERR) Third Lake, John Laughhunn (W9JFL) Gurnee, David Kleckner (KC9GZB) Wauconda, Timothy Kuecker (KB9TLO) Lake Zurich, Leslie D. Mutz (KC9HHB) Vernon Hills, Edward Adair (N9QJW) Lima, Matt Mason (N2ZQO) Grayslake. Also involved, by sharing the teaching duty for this class was: Matt Finlayson (K9KRY) Round Lake.

For more information on the Lake County Emergency Management Agency, see their website at: <http://www.co.lake.il.us/sheriff/divisions/emergenc.asp>

For more information on the Lake County R.A.C.E.S. Group, please see their web site at: www.races.org, or by email at: lcraces@races.org .

###