



McHenry County Emergency Management Agency

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2011 McHenry County EMA Field Day

WOODSTOCK, IL - The Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Services (RACES) division of the McHenry County Emergency Management Agency will be participating in Field Day on June 25th and 26th. The Field Day station will be located in the front of the McHenry County Government Center at 2200 N. Seminary Ave in Woodstock.

Field Day is 24-hour annual exercise sponsored by the American Radio Relay League, the National Association for Amateur Radio. This is an opportunity for federally licensed radio amateurs to test their skills and equipment in the field by making radio contacts, using various modes, with other operators all over the country.

Amateurs have a long history of providing emergency communications when normal systems are overloaded or offline. This is why most participants operate outdoors and away from commercial power and similar conveniences that would be unavailable during an emergency. When the real emergency strikes, like Hurricane Katrina, ham radio operators are quick to respond. In the case of Katrina, Ham radio was one of the few viable means of communication in the disaster area.

Over the weekend, amateur radio operators will be demonstrating various radio techniques ranging from classic Morse code all the way to more modern digital and satellite communications. Several clubs in the area will even be experimenting with TV signals and incredibly high frequency equipment.

The public is invited to join us during this exercise on Saturday, June 25th from 2 PM to 6 PM and Sunday, June 26th from 8 AM to Noon. You will have a unique opportunity to operate official Field Day stations and learn firsthand what ham radio is all about.

Please direct questions regarding this event to the McHenry County Emergency Management Agency at 815-338-6400 or visit us on the web at <http://www.mcraces.org/>. American Radio Relay League Field Day information can be found at: <http://www.arrl.org/field-day>.

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