



## LOS ANGELES COUNTY DISASTER COMMUNICATIONS SERVICE

DCS was created as a result of the County Ordinance of 1951. Since its inception, DCS has received numerous commendations for its services throughout the County of Los Angeles. Some members have over 40 years of service in disaster communications. As required by Federal Law, all personal expenses are paid for by the individual. Currently, the membership contributes over 110,000 hours yearly. This equates to more than over three million dollars of free and dedicated service that is contributed to the County on a yearly basis by your Amateur Radio friends and neighbors.

For more information, contact the Los Angeles County Disaster Communications Service at **(323) 881-8256** or visit us on the web at <http://www.lacdcs.org>

As Americans, our way of life will be tested again and again. As Americans, our will to persist will be challenged. Our willingness to fight for the ideals we believe in will be confronted. Our tolerance for others will be defied. As Americans, we must be prepared to protect ourselves. Are you prepared?

The uniform worn by Disaster Communication Service volunteers represents a proud tradition of service to the people of Los Angeles.

We have an obligation and a duty to make our resources available for the welfare of the public. If you are a licensed Amateur Radio Operator, or would like to become one, and you have not "stepped up to the plate," now is the time! Join DCS.

LOS ANGELES COUNTY DISASTER COMMUNICATIONS SERVICE (DCS) is a volunteer organization administered by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department for the County Board of Supervisors. The responsibility of DCS, as authorized under County Ordinance, is to provide volunteer disaster relief communications for the citizens of the County of Los Angeles.

Over 300 Amateur Radio operators, operating their personally owned two-way radios, in conformance with the Regulations of the Federal Communications Commission, donate their time and equipment at no cost to the citizens of the County of Los Angeles. Amateur Radio equipment installed at each Sheriff's Station is owned by the County, as is a mountain top repeater station and a mobile command trailer. All other equipment is owned by individual members or by volunteer organizations formed by the DCS members.

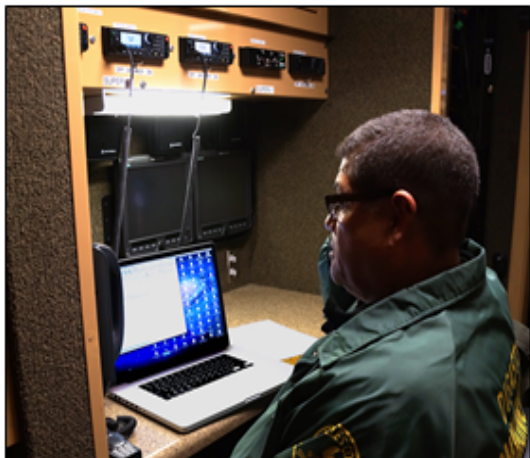
Many members hold high level technical and professional jobs and have very specialized skills that are invaluable to the organization. All mechanical and electrical installations on DCS owned equipment are done by group members at no cost to the County.

During disasters, such as the 1994 Northridge earthquake, 2009 Station and Morris Fires, DCS members provided auxiliary communications between various county departments and city governments. Members also provide backup communications to agencies such as: fire, police Red Cross, and between other agencies that do not share common communications. During the first days after the Northridge earthquake, the only link Granada Hills Community Hospital had with the outside world and city government was through Amateur Radio provided by DCS members.



DCS members have been active in many other public service events such as: the 1984 Olympics, the War Eagle Relay, Baker-to-Vegas Challenge Cup Relay Race, Police Summer Games, election ballot transportation and communications, the City of Hope Run/Bike-a-thon, and the yearly Tournament of Roses Parade. DCS has also assisted in disasters such as: the Mexico City, Landers, Whittier and Northridge earthquakes, and the Altadena, Catalina, Station, and Malibu fires, just to mention a few.

The September 11, 2001 terrorist attack on the United States tested the preparedness of America's military and civilian response establishments. The readiness of the volunteer organizations to "step-up to the plate" and assist where needed was also tested.



During emergencies, Amateur Radio Operators living or working in Los Angeles County have taken time off from work without compensation. They made their operational facilities available, served as NET Control Operators, worked in the Los Angeles County Emergency Operations Center, and shared shifts at the local Sheriff's Stations. DCS personnel volunteered their services to the citizens of Los Angeles County while balancing their personal and professional lives. Many more volunteers are needed and **WE NEED YOU!**



## DCS - Helping Others Communicate



The Disaster Communications Service is comprised of:

- Six Voice Repeaters
- World Wide Digital Network
- Amateur Television Network
- Portable Repeater Systems
- Simplex Radio Operations
- Satellite Communications
- Emergency Response
- Message Handling
- Operations
- Logistical Support
- Planning and Intelligence
- Finance and Accounting
- Fellowship



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