



Amateur Radio Emergency Service  
Prince William County  
[www.pwcares.org](http://www.pwcares.org)

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## **Amateur Radio “Field Day” June 22 and 23 Demonstrates Science, Skill, and Service**

June 3, 2019

Members of the Prince William County Amateur Radio Emergency Service and Dumfries-Triangle Volunteer Fire Department will be participating in the national Amateur Radio Field Day exercise, June 22 – 23, at Prince William County Emergency Operations Center, 1 County Complex Ct. in Woodbridge, VA. Since 1933, ham radio operators across North America have established temporary ham radio stations in public locations during Field Day to showcase the science and skill of Amateur Radio. This event is open to the public and all are encouraged to attend.

This event will also include a display of the Dumfries-Triangle Volunteer Fire Department’s Mobile Command Post (MCP503). The unit is used on major incidents throughout Prince William County and the surrounding region to connect first responders with each other during emergencies and to provide on-scene incident commanders with enhanced communications and other capabilities. Members will also be available to answer questions and to demonstrate the capabilities the department’s unit can provide.

For more than 100 years, Amateur Radio — also called ham radio — has allowed people from all walks of life to experiment with electronics and communications techniques, as well as provide a free public service to their communities during a disaster or emergency, all without needing a cell phone or the Internet. Field Day demonstrates ham radio’s ability to work reliably under any conditions from almost any location and create an independent communications network. More than 35,000 people from thousands of locations participated last year in Field Day 2018 activities.

“It’s easy for anyone to pick up a computer or smartphone, connect to the Internet and communicate, with no knowledge of how the devices function or connect to each other,” said David Isgur, communications manager for the American Radio Relay League, the national association for Amateur Radio. “But if there’s an interruption of service or you’re out of range of a cell tower, you have no way to communicate. Ham radio functions completely independent of the Internet or cell phone infrastructure, can interface with tablets or smartphones, and can be set up almost anywhere in minutes. That’s the beauty of Amateur Radio during a communications outage.”

Anyone may become a licensed Amateur Radio operator. There are more than 725,000 licensed hams in the United States, as young as 9 and as old as 100. And with clubs such as the Ole Virginia Hams ([www.w4ovh.net](http://www.w4ovh.net)) and Woodbridge Wireless ARC ([www.woodbridgewireless.org](http://www.woodbridgewireless.org)), it’s easy for anybody to get involved right here in Prince William County.

For more information about Field Day or Amateur Radio, contact Greg Gresham, Field Day Coordinator, at 214-336-4218 or [ggresham1@gmail.com](mailto:ggresham1@gmail.com) or visit [www.arrl.org/what-is-ham-radio](http://www.arrl.org/what-is-ham-radio).