

## **DCS District 17-Lomita 2011 State of the District**

### **Overview**

DCS District 17, Lomita Station, serves disaster amateur radio needs for nearly 313,000 residents in eight cities and three unincorporated areas plus two multi-city special governmental districts all within Los Angeles County's southwest corner. During 2010 our members devoted over 4,100 hours of volunteer time to public service including improvements with our communication capabilities, technology, and training.

Among the 10 local governmental entities we support, four cities—Lomita, Rancho Palos Verdes, Rolling Hills, Rolling Hills Estates—as well as the unincorporated areas are served by the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department and Los Angeles County Fire Department for police and fire/paramedic services. Palos Verdes Estates maintains its own police department but contracts with LACFD for fire/paramedic services. The three other cities in our District—Torrance, Redondo Beach, and Hermosa Beach—operate their own police and fire departments.

### **District 17's Communication Accomplishments in 2010**

**Local Government EOCs:** In 2010 we continued building amateur radio linkages between the Lomita Sheriff's station and city EOCs to provide communication capability consistent with Los Angeles County's disaster response plan. We conducted 40 weekly test drills during 2010, each using three frequency bands, and encouraged participation from members of both DCS and the city-affiliated amateur radio groups.

**Multi-City Special Districts:** District 17 DCS continued its long-standing programs maintaining disaster amateur radio communication systems for the multi-city Palos Verdes Peninsula Unified School District and the Palos Verdes Library District. Both special districts serve all four cities on the Palos Verdes Peninsula plus two unincorporated areas. In 2010 District 17 DCS members again performed annual equipment and antenna inspections at the facilities of each district, plus facilitated equipment repair or replacement.

We also operated monthly drills during the school year testing communication between sites, their administrative offices, and the Lomita Sheriff's station. District 17 DCS members also worked closely with employees needing training or assistance with their ham radios. Currently there are 65 licensed amateur operators employed at 22 school locations and 30 amateur operators employed at three Library sites.

**Two Large Hospitals:** We provided technical support and conducted two amateur radio disaster test drills during 2010 for the Providence Little Company of Mary Hospitals in Torrance and San Pedro. The Torrance hospital has 436 acute care beds and the San Pedro location is licensed for 356 beds; the hospitals currently have 19 amateur radio operators among their employees.

**Participation in County DCS Events:** District 17 members, like those of other Districts, participated in numerous County DCS events during 2010, including three Sheriff's funerals, Primary and General Election Night support for the Sheriff's Aero Bureau, and events of the Marina Del Rey, Carson, and West Hollywood DCS Districts.

## **Technical Accomplishments in 2010**

**Repeater Cross-Linking:** District 17 worked closely with the trustees of two repeater systems serving our area to develop a radio repeater cross-linking capability for serving the difficult Palos Verdes Peninsula. This cross-link enables our operators to communicate with the Lomita Sheriff's station and other DCS members from almost anywhere within our District to overcome steep terrain and canyons.

**Frequency Coordination:** We also continued our role coordinating the amateur radio frequencies used by the local government-affiliated radio organizations in our District. During 2010 there were significant changes in the regional frequency plan, including several of our City EOCs building new repeater systems.

## **Training Accomplishments in 2010**

2010 was a year for focusing our District's 35 members on our mission, training opportunities, and new initiatives for DCS. We also worked closely with the city-affiliated disaster amateur radio organizations throughout our District to foster good relationships with them and ensure reliable disaster communication throughout our area.

Our District leaders were also invited to make training presentations to CERT groups serving area cities and at several DCS training sessions, including a well-focused presentation on the California Disaster Response Plan and how amateur radio fits in.

District 17 DCS was a registered participant in the Great California ShakeOut Drill on October 21, 2010, and handled extensive message traffic with nearly all the City EOCs in our District. About 2/3 of District 17 DCS members participated during the ShakeOut drill, despite it being on a workweek morning.

## **Objectives for 2011**

Our plans in 2011 are to continue enhancing our members' disaster communication skills while serving needs of our cities, special districts, and the county. Our major objectives will be:

- Recruiting new members in 2011 to grow our ranks by about 20%.
- Upon installation of new radio equipment at the Lomita Sheriff's station DCS room in 2011, implementing digital messaging using the WinLink radio protocol for any City EOC's wishing to use this medium with the Lomita Sheriff's station during a disaster.
- Continue training our members, including using the new County-owned radio equipment. District 17 members have been bringing their personally-owned radios to operate during drills and other events from the Lomita station.

Above all, we stand ready to serve during any disaster affecting our District or the County.

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