

LACDCS

Member 101



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Every member must, of course, first qualify as a member. They must have completed an application, signed all of the documents, obtained a live scan, taken the prospective member training and completed FEMA 100, 200, 700 and 800 before they can receive their ID card and Unit ID. Once a member they must complete at least 48 hours of DCS service each calendar year. Hours are prorated during their first year. The DCS ID card is intended for use only with DCS and not for other purposes. The DCS ID card is the property of Los Angeles County and must be returned promptly if requested to do so and/or termination of membership in the organization.

UNIFORM (Refer to LAC-DCS Uniform Policy)

Every member must have a proper uniform and wear that uniform when participating in an official DCS activity. The Sheriff's Department expects DCS members to look sharp in their uniforms as they work alongside department personnel.

EQUIPMENT

DCS members who are also have their FCC license are expected to have an appropriate radio so they can communicate. A basic 2 meter handheld radio will suffice. A spare battery, earpiece microphone, better antenna, belt clip, carrying case, etc., would be useful. Each

DCS member should be familiar with their radio equipment and know how to charge batteries, change batteries, program their radio with the five must have frequencies and also operate the VFO so that they can enter a new frequency in the field when necessary.

DCS RADIO NETS

DCS members are expected to check in on their local station net and report their hours for the previous week. They are also encouraged to check in on the DCS Tuesday Noon Net. It is important for members to understand that the DCS Nets are an opportunity to check their radio equipment and their ability to reach Net Control. Members will also be given the opportunity to be Net Control and conduct the Monday Night Net. DCS members receive credit for DCS hours for participating in the nets.

TRAINING

Before being deployed we would like every DCS member to complete the basic courses in Hydration, Go-Bag, Risk Management and Basic Message Handling.

GO-BAG

As described in detail in the Go-Bag course, each member should assemble a basic Go-Bag for themselves so that they are ready to respond when needed. We emphasize that every Go-Bag should

include a supply of whatever medications are needed by the member for the period of their deployment.

EXPERIENCE

We would like for our newer members to go on a deployment whenever possible just to get some experience in working with DCS in the field. We encourage a "Buddy System" which asks each experienced member to invite a new member to work with them on each deployment. New members need to learn how important it is to have sun screen, a pen that works, a piece of paper or notebook, gloves when needed, and all those other items that one discovers once deployed.

ARE YOU READY?

After the member has completed all of the items above, the question remains: What is the DCS member supposed to do if there is an emergency?

Perhaps it needs to be said that each member must be sure that they are "Okay" and their family members are "Okay" before they turn their attention to DCS.

Each member should follow their station's procedure to contact their DCO and report their readiness. Contact can be made by any functioning method – telephone, cell phone, text, e-mail, and of course, radio. It will become very important that DCS members use the proper frequencies to call their station. Such calls should be on their sta-

tion's simplex frequency and not on the main DCS repeater.

One of the most critical parts of responding to any wide scale emergency is for DCS members to check in quickly and then LISTEN for further instructions on their station's frequency and on the DCS repeater. All frequencies must remain open for emergency traffic.

The DCS member will deploy when instructed to do so by their DCO or by the EOB Team that will be handling communications for Incident Command.

We emphasize that DCS members DO NOT SELF ACTIVIAE. We are activated by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department and we work for them and with them. It is very important for DCS members to adhere to the CHAIN OF COMMAND so that we can function effectively as a team.

DEPLOYMENT

When asked to deploy, each DCS member needs to stay in communication with Net Control which will probably be the EOB team. Members need to check in on the radio when they leave their homes and when they arrive at their assignment. Typically they will be asked to check in at the field CP and receive further instructions there. DCS members must stay in communication with their Net Control throughout their deployment and they must check in with the Safety Officer when they arrive back home.

EOB TEAM TRAINING

Members are welcome to participate in EOB Team Training sessions to get a better idea of what to expect in a deployment.

DISASTER COMMUNICATIONS SERVICE

We remind all of our members that our role and our function is to provide communications service at the request and the direction of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department. Our role is *communications*. We are not first responders. We are not law enforcement. We do not fight fires or rescue people. We do stay out of the way so that the first responders can fight fires and rescue people.

ADVANCED TRAINING

DCS members trained in vehicle traffic control may assist in directing vehicular traffic at the direction of a sworn officer. DCS members who have completed the Emergency Vehicle Operator Course (EVOC) training may drive County vehicles at the direction of a sworn officer. Additional training is available for DCS members including Advanced Message Handling, Reporting Emergencies, TSB Rail Certification, IED courses, NBEMS courses, and are planned to include CERT courses and other advanced training.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

The LACDCS.ORG web site contains a wealth of information available to members. Many questions can be answered by searching the web site. Members may also ask their DCO for additional guidance if needed.

NOTES:

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WWW.LACDCS.ORG