

City of Parksville Emergency Communications Team Exercise to be held on September 17

The City of Parksville Emergency Communications Team made up of volunteer members from the Mid Island Radio Association which serves District 69, Vancouver Island, will conduct an emergency communications exercise on **Thursday, September 17 from 9 am to noon** on the south field of the Parksville Civic and Technology Centre. This exercise is designed to test readiness to set up an emergency communications unit and to send and receive messages using a variety of methods.

The public is welcome and encouraged to watch the exercise which will provide an opportunity to better understand the role of the Emergency Communications Team, City of Parksville, Town of Qualicum Beach and the Regional District of Nanaimo in maintaining communications during emergencies.

The Emergency Communications Team works with the three municipal authorities (City of Parksville, Town of Qualicum Beach and the Regional District of Nanaimo) in the Oceanside area to provide communications when conventional systems are disabled or overloaded. The committee works under the jurisdiction of the Provincial Emergency Preparedness Plan and in Parksville with the deputy emergency coordinator and fire chief.

The exercise scheduled for September 17 will be similar to an exercise conducted in 2005 and is designed to test the capacity to set up and operate an emergency communications unit. Operating in a public place will provide an opportunity to demonstrate to the public how this can be accomplished. The exercise will test new radio equipment supplied by the City of Parksville and will use as many modes of radio communication as possible, including short-range (local/Vancouver Island) and long-range (Victoria/Edmonton) voice and data systems, as might be required in an actual crisis.

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For more information:

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