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Local amateur radio operators helping with communication during Hurricane Irene

Posted By [Mari Lou-WGMD News](#) On August 27, 2011 @ 8:00 pm In [Local News](#) | [3 Comments](#)

Ham radio operators have their ears to Hurricane Irene and are helping Sussex County residents by relaying health and welfare information to the EOC in Georgetown. The local amateur radio operators are set up at Beacon Middle School – but others are set up staffing communications centers at Beebe and Nanticoke Medical Centers. They can provide backup communications in the event commercial or government systems fail.

NEWS RELEASE: Local amateur radio operators, also known as hams, are volunteering their time and personal equipment to serve the citizens of Sussex County as Hurricane Irene approaches.

Members of Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) have established a communications center at the Beacon Middle School to relay Health and Welfare information to the county's Emergency Operations Center in Georgetown. Other ARES members are staffing communications centers at Beebe Medical Center and Nanticoke Hospital to provide backup communications should traditional commercial or governmental systems fails.

Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) members are tasked to support the Emergency Operations Center in Georgetown. Information gathered in the field is received by RACES and disseminated to the appropriate agency for action.

"Use of amateur radio gives us additional eyes and ears on the ground and allows federal, state and county personnel to perform other tasks" advises Sussex County Emergency Operations Director Joe Thomas.

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