



FACT SHEET

May 12, 2011



Mercer Island Radio Operators



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www.mirohams.org

Description

Mercer Island Radio Operators (MIRO) is the Amateur Radio team that supports Mercer Island with emergency communications during times of disaster. MIRO's served agency is the Mercer Island Emergency Management organization operated by the Police Department.

MIRO is a fully volunteer group that engages in emergency response, emergency preparedness training, and related public service activities without compensation. Forty four licensed Amateur Radio operators are currently enrolled in MIRO. MIRO members are registered Emergency Workers specializing in Emergency Communications, pursuant to WAC 118-04-080.

Operational Activities

MIRO conducts the following monthly events:

- On-the-air radio net every second Thursday at 7:00 PM, on the 2-meter repeater frequency.
- Monthly meeting on third Thursday of each month at 7 PM—normally at the Mercer Island North Fire Station (FS 91 at 3030 78th Avenue SE, Mercer Island WA 98040).

Additional activities include:

- Statewide EOC-to-EOC communications drill, approximately every quarter.
- Annual national Amateur Radio Simulated Emergency Test drill organized by Western Washington Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES).
- City, King County and regional disaster preparedness drills.
- Affiliation with the King and Kitsap County Red Cross to help coordinate Red Cross support on Mercer Island when needed.
- Frequent member work parties to support expansion and maintenance of the MIRO infrastructure, and other public service activities.
- Outreach and training.

Facilities

Fixed installations

Besides member-owned radio equipment, we maintain the following dedicated installations:

- Emergency Operations Center (EOC). Located at City Hall, the EOC Amateur Radio facility provides both voice and digital communications for emergen-

cy message handling at the city, regional, and state levels. (W7MIR@winlink.org)

- Community Center at Mercer View (CCMV). MIRO members maintain an emergency communications facility for voice and digital communications. (W7MIR-6@winlink.org)
- Fire Stations. Voice Amateur Radio transceivers are installed at each of the two Mercer Island fire stations (FS 91 and 92).

Voice repeaters

- 2-meter band. 147.160 MHz, + offset, CTCSS tone 146.2 Hz.
- 70-centimeter band. 440.150 MHz, + offset, CTCSS tone 103.5 Hz.

Digital infrastructure

A digital infrastructure is in place, using AX25 packet radio and the Winlink 2000 system for transmission of e-mail messages. It consists of a central mail hub (RMS) for message relay and fixed and mobile field stations.

- 2-meter band. 145.03 MHz, 1200-baud—W7MIR-10 and WA6PXX-10.
- 70-centimeter band. 440.825 MHz, 9600-baud—W7MIR-10 and WA6PXX-10.

Recruitment and Training

All licensed radio amateurs residing on Mercer Island are welcome to participate. To join, contact the MIRO volunteer chairman.

An Amateur Radio License can be obtained by passing an examination. FCC-coordinated Volunteer Examiners offer frequent testing sessions in the local area. Preparation for the examination can be accomplished by self study or by participation in a training class.

MIRO offers resources to assist members of the community wanting to obtain Amateur Radio licenses and become emergency communications volunteers. MIRO and other groups arrange Amateur Radio license classes from time to time. See the MIRO web site information on training and testing resources.

Contact Information

For information about MIRO, contact Dave Cook, WA0TTN, MIRO volunteer chairman, at 206-230-0397, or e-mail at wa0ttn@netdave.com. Web site: www.mirohams.org.

