



York County REACT 6123
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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York County REACT Announces Citizens Radio Drill

Shrewsbury, PA -- May 5, 2008 -- May is REACT month and York County REACT announces it will conduct its second annual NationalSOS drill on Saturday, May 17, 2008 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Families need an alternative means of communicating when regular phones and cell phones stop working during disasters. The Family Radio Service (FRS) is a short range, unlicensed radio service established by the FCC for citizens to use during family activities. Generally limited to a half a mile, these radios can communicate over greater distances when there is a good line of site between the transmitting and receiving radios.

This year's NationalSOS drill will be conducted using FRS channel 1. The actual frequency is 462.5625MHz. Although not the same on every radio, most FRS radios display this frequency as channel 1. Residence wishing to participate should make sure that the privacy code or "PL" tone is set to off or 0. Many people own these small hand held radios or "walkie-talkies". York County REACT invites all FRS radio owners as well as General Mobile Radio Service (GMRS) licensees to contact our York receiving station on FRS 1 no tone.

This year the target area for the drill will be roughly from the intersection of South George Street and Country Club Road going north and west including the City of York. See our web site for a map of the drill coverage area.

York County REACT is a chartered team of REACT International, Inc. based in Suitland, Md. REACT has teams across the United States, Canada and in some foreign countries.

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Radio Emergency Associated Communications Teams

Founded 1962

An independent non-profit public service organization providing skilled volunteer two-way radio communications for safety.



Background

York County REACT was chartered in September of 2006. Prior to the current team, there were several other REACT teams in the county during the 1970's and more recently Southern Region REACT from 2003 to 2005. REACT provides emergency communications between the public and government agencies and other disaster relief agencies. Teams may utilize any or all of the public radio services established by the FCC including the Citizens Band (CB), Family Radio Service (FRS), Multi-Use Radio Service (MURS), General Mobile Radio Service (GMRS) and the Amateur Radio Service (ARS) or HAM radio. York County REACT has licensed Amateur Radio operators, licensed GMRS radio operators as well as FRS and CB station operators. Team members monitor CB channel 9 and FRS channel 1 from their homes and cars.

Family radio Service

The FCC established the Family Radio Service in 1996. While using relatively low power, these small, lightweight walkie-talkies operate in the UHF radio frequency range using FM modulation for improved communications from Citizens Band radios. Although not a replacement for a regular telephone or cell phone, these radios have already helped save lives in situations when no phone service was available. The "FRS 1 No Tone" initiative was announced by REACT International, Inc in a July 2006 press release. The initiative is backed by REACT, Midland Radio, D-CERN and NationalSOS.com. Here are several web sites with more information on FRS radios and their use in disaster.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Family_Radio_Service#List_of_FRS_channels

<http://www.f-r-s.org/homepage.htm>

NationalSOS Drill Program

Amateur Radio operators devised the NationalSOS program after returning home from helping in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. They saw that the lack of communications was the cause of many problems including loss of life and property. Here are several web sites containing background information on the NationalSOS program.

<http://www.nationalsos.com/index.html>

<http://www.prweb.com/releases/2006/5/prweb381987.htm>

York County REACT #6123 is a chartered team of REACT International, Inc located in Suitland, MD. REACT International, Inc and its subordinate teams are non-profit 503(3) c organizations. York County REACT currently relies entirely on team members investing their own funds for equipment and administration costs. Donations are always welcome.

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