

## Community Organizations:

**We provide communications for public events.**

If you are planning a parade, or a walk-a-thon, or any large event, we can provide portable radios and operators.

*There is never a charge for our services.* This is part of our training as radio operators, and part of our "public service" mission.

Consult with us to discuss your event, and determine your radio needs.

Locally, Radio Amateurs participate in:

- Mount Albert Sports Day parade,
- Aurora Street Festival,
- Camp 'X' Historical Society commemoration of 'D' day's 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary,
- Aurora Canada Day parade,
- Great Canadian Horse Ride for Cancer,
- Lung Society Bike-A-Thon,
- Newmarket Terry Fox Run.

Other EMCOMM units participate in:

- M.S. Society walk in Scarborough
- 'D' Day and Labor Day anniversary parades
- Halliburton Ultra Marathon

## In The Region of

### Durham

Contact:  
**Gord Hewit**  
Chairman

**289-800-1473**

**Telserv\_ca@yahoo.com**

**<http://durham.emergencyradio.ca>**

For contact information in other parts of Ontario, please see:

<http://emergencycommunicationsontario.ca>

## **EMCOMM urges all Canadians to**

**“Be Prepared, Not Scared”**

Further official information on emergency preparedness can be found at

<http://www.ocipep.gc.ca>

Revised: 2011-Apr-10

# **EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS DURHAM**

Emergency Communications Durham (EmComm) is a volunteer organization of amateur radio operators. Since 1935, EMCOMM (also called ARES in some parts of North America) has provided backup radio communications in times of need.

In these modern times of cellular phones and the Internet, we take instant communications for granted.

We forget how fragile, and subject to potential overload, our communications systems are.

During the August 2003 power failure:

1. Some municipalities experienced a loss of telephone service. 911 service to those areas was also impacted.
2. Many areas had problems with their wireless providers. Some tower sites failed, due to lack of power.

June 2004,

1. Red Cross reported telephone line problems in Ottawa had been going on for three days. So the national disaster services response for the Red Cross in Canada has been limited by their telephone problems.

2. Labrador and Nova Scotia experienced telephone disruptions due to sabotage of a fiber optic cable, during a labor dispute.

There are no exemptions from

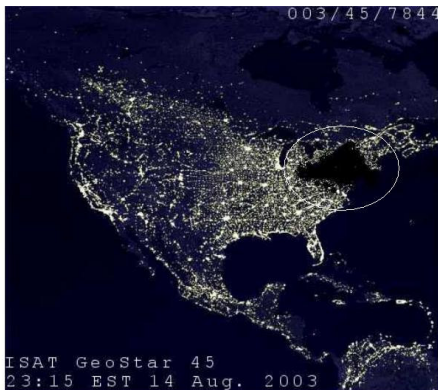
## **‘Murphy’s Law’**

### **Communications Systems Will Fail!**

**and they are only likely to do so at the  
worst possible time.**

**Do you remember where you were  
when the lights went out?**

**Aug 14, 2003  
Blackout**



## **What does EMCOMM do?**

### **EMCOMM provided emergency radio communications when;**

- the ice storm of 1998 blacked out parts of Quebec and Ontario,
- tornadoes struck Edmonton in 1987, overloading the telephone lines,
- the threat of Y2K loomed operators with the Amateur Radio Emergency Service volunteered their services and equipment for the duration.
- forest fires struck British Columbia in 2003 the provincial premier said "Amateur radio operators continue to provide critical communications links, as phone lines are down and cellular coverage intermittent."
- Peterborough's floods brought many municipal fire departments into town, EMCOMM was the solution to the lack of a common radio frequency.

Every EMCOMM member is licensed by Industry Canada (after study and examinations) to own, maintain, and operate private radio equipment. We use VHF and UHF radios for local communications, and HF (short-wave) radios for province-wide and international communications. We can use the province-wide network of amateur repeater stations, and the amateur-run National Traffic System (NTS), to send emergency messages.

## **Municipalities and Emergency Agencies:**

Make EMCOMM a part of your emergency plan. When a disaster happens, we can provide extra radio equipment and trained operators.

We do not use, or "take over" your communications systems. We offer supplemental communications, using our own equipment on our own frequencies. We can, for example, set up a temporary station at an emergency shelter, to handle health and welfare inquiries.

EMCOMM is an official communications provider for the Canadian Red Cross. Emergency Management Ontario and the Ontario Provincial Police also maintain amateur radio stations for emergency use. Additionally, we work closely with Environment Canada and the CANWARN severe weather spotting network.

Your local contact is the EMCOMM Emergency Coordinator. The EC will be happy to meet with you to understand your needs, and describe what EMCOMM can do to meet them.