

The ECS Mission

The ECS mission is to serve the San Bernardino County Fire Department Office of Emergency Services and the San Bernardino Operational Area in support of any possible need relative to communications in an emergency. As well as involvement in the daily operations of that agency. In effect, ECS becomes an integrated aspect of the sponsoring agency .



Communications Support Unit
CS 502



ATV Video Support Unit
IO 175



San Bernardino County
Fire Department
Office of Emergency Services
Emergency Communications Service

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Communications
Support in Times
of Disaster

San
Bernardino
County
Operational
Area



Emergency
Communications
Service

San Bernardino County
Fire Department
Office of Emergency
Services

Emergency Communications Service



The Emergency Communication Service (ECS) is a volunteer organization administered under the San Bernardino County Fire Department Office of Emergency Services. Its primary function is to supplement the County's existing communications systems during a disaster or emergency.

The organization is staffed by skilled and dedicated people who are committed to providing emergency communications. ECS staff are assigned to either the Operations or Support side of the organization.

In San Bernardino County, ECS was expanded from the original RACES program. The current ECS program incorporates civilians who, in addition to providing radio communications, also provide many other services in an emergency. San Bernardino County ECS serves as an educational and training forum to assist all those interested in emergency communications to serve local government in time of need.

Background

The Emergency Communications Service evolved from a nation wide program called RACES (Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service), which is supported by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) of the United States government. ECS is made up of amateur radio operators who follow guidelines set by the Federal Communications Commission. Although in existence for more than half a century, the rules that govern RACES also restrict its use. ECS fulfills the need to accommodate people who are not only amateur radio operators but are willing to donate time and expertise in other areas that is extremely valuable in times of need.

Duties

For the County of San Bernardino, the ECS unit of the Office of Emergency Services (OES) provides a variety of professional non-paid skills, including emergency tactical, administrative and logistical communications between the County and Cities of the Operational Area and neighboring State & Federal agencies.



Willow Fire Base Camp August/September 1999

Typical Response Activities

Communications Support

- Fires
- Floods
- Earthquakes
- Weather Events
- Hazmat Incidents
- Homeland Security

Recent Responses

- Old / Grand Prix Fires
- Sawtooth Complex Fire
- Willow Fire
- Hector Mine Earthquake
- Christmas Day Flood
- Baker to Vegas Race

Expertise

- FCC Licensed Radio Operators
- Incident Communications
- Inter Agency Communications

- Intelligence gathering

Repeater Information

- County Wide Linked Repeater Network
- Linked ATV & SSTV Repeater Network
- Digital Comm. Network for Packet, PSK-31 & WinLink
- APRS Capability for Mapping

Comm. Support CS 502

- All Terrain 4 wheel Drive Vehicle
- Fully Equipped for all ham bands
- County 800 system
- VHF Fire systems
- ATV & SSTV equipment
- FRS / GMRS radios
- WinLink & APRS
- Satellite communications