



Lake County  
Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service ®  
Amateur Radio Emergency Services ®  
1303 N. Milwaukee Avenue  
Libertyville, IL 60048



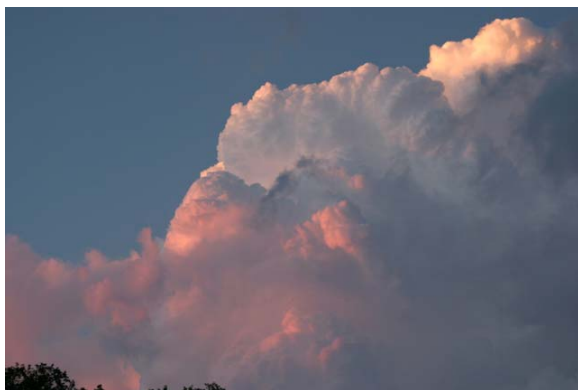
## Volunteer Amateur Radio Operators Assist During Des Plaines River Flooding

Waukegan, Illinois; Sunday, May 23, 2004 -- The call went out in the early morning hours to activate the Lake County Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Services (RACES) organization, according to Dave Christensen, Director of the Emergency Management Agency for Lake County. This well trained group of volunteers provided communication support for the sand bagging efforts for the Des Plaines River flooding, and the continued threat of severe weather.

These volunteer radio operators manned the radios and weather computer located at the Lake County Emergency Operations Center (EOC), with additional radios at the Mobile Command Center positioned at Warrenville High School in Gurnee.

They worked two hour shifts from approximately 10:00 AM until 9:00 PM. Bruce Becker their weather specialist, provided continuous river level updates as well as weather briefings throughout the day. In the immediate area though, the weather turned out rather nice most of the day, with the threat of severe weather reserved for late in the day.

The severe weather threat did make its presence known around 8:00 PM when it moved into the area. What had been a tornado watch, turned into a tornado warning when a funnel sighting occurred around Nippersink and Wilson. The Tornado sirens were set off and the Command center personnel was ordered to relocate.



As it turned out, there was never a confirmation that the funnel actually touched the ground. Operating members at the Mobile Command Center relocated some of their equipment in the event they had to setup at a different position. Throughout the evacuation they continued to remain in communications contact with the County EOC.



Lake County  
Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service ®  
Amateur Radio Emergency Services ®  
1303 N. Milwaukee Avenue  
Libertyville, IL 60048



In Gurnee, officials have taken an initial survey of damaged structures in the flood zone, largely on Kilbourne Road and Old Grand Avenue, north of Route 132. Officials said a damage estimate cannot be made until the floodwater clears. Village officials said 37 homes and up to 25 commercial buildings have water damage.

In Libertyville, just a few homes have been affected by floodwater near Rockland Road, village officials said.

No deaths or serious injuries have resulted from the flooding according to the governor's office.

Governor Blagojevich formally declared all of Lake County to be included in the state disaster areas due of the severe flooding.

This activation of the Lake County R.A.C.E.S. group was the first actual disaster event this year. While they have had numerous severe weather radio “nets”, and the scheduled community service events like the annual Lake Zurich Triathlon in August, and the Condell 5 / 10 k Distance Classic run in September; the Des Plaines River activation is what they constantly train for. The volunteers responded quickly, and performed professionally with the agencies they served.

###