

NEIGHBORHOOD HAMWATCH IN VOLUSIA COUNTY

♦ www.HamWatch.me ♦ ♦ e-mail: HamWatch@me.com ♦

The Neighborhood HamWatch program is gearing up in Volusia County with the expectation of a steady growth by participating licensed Ham Radio operators who want to “*be there*” for their neighbors in times of communications emergency.



Volusia County residents will remember the four-hurricane season of 2004 that started with Hurricane Charlie. The lessons that the entire country learned from the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina the following year served to warn us of the need for proactive planning “*before*” a disaster. Waiting until the emergency strikes and simply checking into a local net asking, “*Can I help?*” will not work. In fact that could interfere with previously organized and practiced processes.

Being involved in Neighborhood HamWatch allows you to stay home during an incident and be of service to your neighborhood as well as to Emergency Management Authorities.

All you need is a 2Meter FM radio and an outside antenna. For protracted power outages you will need some type of backup power source, battery, generator, solar assist, etc.

Most of the activity is just Ham Radio over the air – check into a local voice net so your presence and availability are known to the Net Control Station or setup a simplex communications relay station. Then sit back and be there for your neighborhood.

Keeping your neighbors in touch with what is going on around the county can be quite consoling in the midst of isolation, storm debris, too hot, too cold, wet weather, or when telephone, power and cable services are out. Your being able to get a Health and Welfare message out to distant family and friends of your neighbors will also be of comfort.

Every Ham, young or old, deployable or not, or obligated to a specific group/task in case of emergency, can and should be part of Neighborhood HamWatch.



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