



CITY OF KENNER

PRESS RELEASE

MICHAEL S. YENNI
MAYOR

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GRANT PROVIDES HAM RADIO EQUIPMENT FOR KENNER EMCOMM TEAM

Kenner, LA. – FEMA and other government officials have long recognized the value of amateur radio, or Ham radio, capabilities during disasters. During times of emergency, experienced Ham radio operators can provide statewide backup and/or alternate communications capabilities utilizing a wide spectrum of radio frequencies and specialized equipment.

Should a storm result in significant damage to or overload of our public safety communications network or cell towers, Ham operators can quickly establish an alternate means of reliable communications between municipal, parish, state, and federal emergency management centers, hospitals, and relief agencies.

The City of Kenner recently acquired a complete Ham radio station and several handsets to supplement its emergency communications capabilities. The equipment is valued at approximately \$6,000. This follows closely on the City's acquisition of \$38,000 of radio and satellite phone equipment recently obtained through federal grants and a state equipment sharing program.

Kenner's Ham radio equipment will be operated by a local United States Coast Guard Auxiliary Emergency Communications (EMCOMM) Team. Licensed by the FCC, these trained and vetted communications experts imbed with Kenner officials at the City's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) during major storms, other crisis and training exercises. Previously, these volunteers had to carry and set up their radio equipment and antenna at the EOC following activation. This new equipment will permit the establishment of a complete, permanent communications station within the EOC, capable of being activated immediately.

"The City of Kenner continues to build its emergency management and communications capabilities to ensure that we are able to effectively support our first responders" said Mayor Michael Yenni. "Consistent team building, collaboration and planning along with our federal, state and parish response partners enhances our community's ability to respond to and quickly recover from a crisis."

Kenner's Office of Emergency Management worked closely with the Jefferson Parish Department of Emergency Management and the Parish Homeland Security Committee to secure funding for the equipment. Kenner's application for the equipment was approved by the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP).

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