



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

Cumberland County Commissioners

Vince DiFilippo - Chairman

Jim Hertzler - Vice Chairman

Gary Eichelberger - Secretary

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Amateur Radio Field Day this Weekend

Carlisle, Pa. – The South Mountain Radio Amateurs (SMRA) will participate in the annual American Radio Relay League's Field Day, a national amateur radio exercise, beginning at 2 p.m. Saturday, June 23 and ending at 2 p.m. on Sunday, June 24 at the Cumberland County Emergency Services Training Academy, 180 Army Heritage Drive, Carlisle. The public is encouraged to visit the SMRA members during the field day as they demonstrate their skills in creating independent communication networks.

During the field day, SMRA's local ham radio operators will contact as many other stations as possible, without the use of modern technologies like a cell phone or the internet.

Amateur Radio, often called "ham radio," has been in existence for more than 100 years. It has grown into a worldwide community of licensed operators, using the airwaves to transmit voice, data and pictures, without relying on commercial systems. Every June, more than 40,000 hams throughout North America set up temporary transmitting stations in public places, to demonstrate ham radio's science, skill and service to communities across the nation. Amateur Field Day combines public service, emergency preparedness, community outreach and technical skills in a single event. Even with modern communications systems, Amateur Radio operators are often called upon for communication support in emergency disasters.

SMRA is a partner agency of the Cumberland County Department of Public Safety (DPS). The group routinely exercises and trains with DPS, so in the event of a catastrophic communications failure, SMRA can support the disaster communications needs of the community and DPS. SMRA also supports DPS during major incidents with field observations, situational awareness reports, redundant backup communications, and auxiliary messaging. For more information on SMRA visit <http://n3twf.org/>.

The Cumberland County Department of Public Safety provides 9-1-1 emergency communications and coordinates essential public safety activity among all levels of government, as well as, private and volunteer organizations, business and industrial stakeholders to provide quick responses to the needs of County citizens and visitors. More details on DPS can be found at www.ccpa.net/dps.

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Cumberland County is the fastest growing county in the Commonwealth and offers the perfect mix of small town, suburban and rural living. Established in 1750, Cumberland County consistently maintains one of the lowest tax and unemployment rates in the State, while providing exceptional services for its more than 250,000 residents. More information on Cumberland County can be found at www.ccpa.net.

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