

In the event of a natural disaster, communication from Dillon Beach to neighboring cities will be crucial. The Dillon Beach Emergency Response Team has a communication plan that utilizes Ham Radio. We encourage Dillon Beach residents to learn more about Ham Radio and to obtain a Ham Radio license.

**Why Ham Radio?** Ham radio has proven to be the best method to communicate during an emergency. In an emergency, conventional telephone and cell phones frequently become overloaded or damaged and quit working. Unlike telephones and cell phones, which pass your communication through a system of switches and devices that can fail or create choke points, Ham Radio works radio to radio without additional equipment. Ham Radios are like very powerful walkie-talkies that can reach around the world. Ham radio was the only method of communication during events like Hurricane Katrina and 9/11. Ham radio is also a great way to strengthen our community during times of non-emergency use. Once you have your Ham Radio license, there is no fee to use the radio or repeaters. It's absolutely **FREE**

#### **Ham Radio Licensing Options:**

##### **3 Hour Class & Exam Session:**

- The Sonoma Mountain Repeater Society offers a class and exam session which makes it possible to get your license in one day. There is a \$25.00 fee which includes materials and the FCC exam/license fee. About 90% + of the people taking this class passes the test. Visit the SMRS web page at <http://smrs.us> for more details or to find classes offered locally. **This is an inexpensive, quick and easy way to get your license NOW!**
- 

**Self-Study** If you don't want to take a class, you can:

1. Take some on-line practice exams at the QRZ web site located at <http://www.qrz.com/hamtest/>
2. Find an FCC exam session in your community using <http://www.arrl.org/find-an-amateur-radio-license-exam-session>
3. Attend the exam session and take the FCC Technician Class exam.
4. Another option is to download the **NCVEC** test questions, study only the correct answers then go take the test.

**FCC Exam:** \$15.00 fee covers your exam and license which is valid for 10 years (no exam to renew).

**Book** (optional): About \$20.00 at <http://www.w5yi.org/catalog.php?sort=4> or <http://www.amazon.com>

**Equipment:** A new two meter Ham Radio can be purchased for as little as \$50.00 however if you want a more powerful system with a permanent antenna, the cost can be \$250 or more.

#### **Practice tests for Ham Radio exams**

- Go to: <http://www.qrz.com/hamtest/>
- Once you can consistently pass the practice tests, you are ready for the actual FCC exam.

#### **FCC Examination Details for the Technical Class Ham Radio License:**

Take a 35 question exam. You can miss up to 9 questions. Only 26 correct answers required to pass the test.

All test questions and answers are on the **NCVEC** web site at: <http://ncvec.org/page.php?id=362> You will need: \$15 cash, one photo ID, possibly a second ID (no photo), a pencil, a calculator and your Social Security number (or preferably an FCC Federal Registration Number). See: <http://www.smrs.us/classes/frn.htm> for details.

#### **Where and When:**

Exam session locations can be found at: <http://www.arrl.org/find-an-amateur-radio-license-exam-session>

- Sonoma Mountain Repeater Society Classes/tests are held many times during the year, usually on Saturdays, but sometimes on Thursday. Visit their website: <http://www.smrs.us/classes/ve2017.htm> for more information. **This is an inexpensive, quick and easy way to get your license NOW!**

**Contact:** Jeff Young at 707-322-3221 or at [jeff.km6y@gmail.com](mailto:jeff.km6y@gmail.com) for more info regarding technical questions, licensing or equipment selection.