What's Needed for Event Communications?

- The event organizers want Amateur Radio help to be there.
- The event organizers and participating amateurs meet and agree on Amateur Radio's role in the operation.
- Everyone understands and endorses the operational plan.

You will want to place radio amateurs in a lot of different areas. This, of course, will depend on the specific nature of your event, but some places might be: mile markers, half-mile markers, the reviewing stands, start and finish lines, water and aid stations, sag wagons, parking areas, medical stations, event HQ, shadowing coordinators, message centers, floats, and scoring areas.

Relationship to Event Organizers

All event officials should have a clear understanding of the operational plan that defines our role, what we can and cannot do. Amateurs are volunteer, experienced and trained communicators.

The communications plan is developed jointly between the organizers and the hams to meet the needs of the event. A post-event review aids in making the next event even better.

Participating Amateur Radio operators need to be identified by vest, badge or other easily recognizable item and given area access.

Liaison is always maintained with the event leadership to provide flexibility as situations change.

What Do the Hams Get Out of It?

Besides the basic enjoyment in using our hobby and knowing we are serving our neighbors, we get practice!

No two special event operations are going to be the same. Your operational plan will depend on your own requirements and your resources. But hams are adaptive! They've been providing public service communications for a century in all sorts of situations.

