

COMMUNICATIONS

When disaster strikes, telephone systems are quickly overloaded, if not disabled. Communications are critical for efficient deployment of emergency personnel and other resources. Amateur Radio is ideal for this purpose because:

- Amateur radio operators are already trained and certified by Industry Canada.
- The equipment used is very flexible, able to pass messages efficiently across the city, province or country.
- Permanent Radio stations provide an immediate and robust communications capability without transporting or assembling of gear.
- Portable radios allow effective communications with unpredictable locations or resources that are in motion.

The MLHU radio station includes multiple Amateur Radio systems and antenna systems to provide complete communications coverage. It also includes other separate radio systems allowing direct communications with the municipal Police and Fire departments. Having the radio equipment in a secure location in MLHU premises ensures that access can be controlled, and that it will be ready when needed in the short and long term. It is also possible to carefully oversee any sensitive information that is transmitted over radio facilities that others can monitor.



AMATEUR RADIO OPERATORS

Availability of radio operators can be easily managed, since some MLHU staff and Community Emergency Response Volunteers (CERV) are trained and certified Amateur Radio Operators. Members of the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) can also be called upon in extended situations.

Because other agencies make use of Amateur Radio facilities in emergency situations, it is possible to have effective inter-agency communications even when traditional communications facilities aren't available.

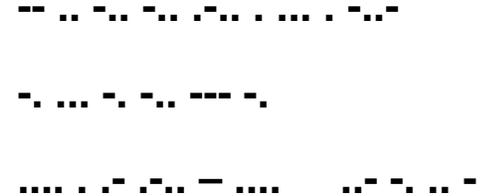
MLHU works closely with the London Amateur Radio Club (LARC) for ongoing operator training, testing to ensure readiness of the radio gear, and practice exercises to ensure the readiness of the radio operators. The MLHU is proudly affiliated with the Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network (SATERN) and is a member of the Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC).

The Health Unit's call signs are:

VA3LHU
VE3LHU



Radio Room – 3B



Some staff and members of the Community Emergency Response Volunteers (CERV) are trained amateur radio operators. They stand ready to assist in the event of an emergency!



Patrick Ross – LARC

Middlesex-London Health Unit

- community partners in response -

When disaster strikes our part includes:

- emergency health communications
- disease outbreak management
- immunization
- monitoring of water quality
- food safety
- home safety
- pandemic planning
- hazardous materials
- air quality
- family preparedness
- extreme weather response

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LINKS

www.larc.ca

London Amateur Radio Club

www.rac.ca

Radio Amateurs of Canada

www.satarn.org

Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network

<http://ontario.racares.ca/>

RAC ARES

http://www.ic.gc.ca/eic/site/smt-gst.nsf/eng/h_sf01709.html

Industry Canada

<http://www.emergencyteam.ca>



An equilateral triangle within a circle is the international symbol for emergency preparedness. The blue triangle represents harmony, balance and calm while the orange circle is the sign of alert and danger. EP and MLHU indicates the commitment of the Middlesex-London Health Unit to Emergency Preparedness.

For more information on
Emergency Preparedness visit:
www.healthunit.com/emergency

Middlesex-London Health Unit

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AMATEUR RADIO STATION



In times of emergency, amateur radio is often used as a means of communication when the conventional means of communication fail.

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