



Disaster Communications Service  
*A Volunteer Disaster Relief Organization*  
County of Los Angeles Sheriff's Department  
Emergency Operations Bureau

## **2007 CATALINA ISLAND FIRE - AFTER ACTION REPORT -**

### **INCIDENT STATISTICS:**

# of Member Participants: 41  
Length of Activation: 12 days  
Deployment on Island: 6 days  
Additional Days of Standby: 6  
Radio Traffic: 1,189 Messages  
Man Hours Logged: 3,374

### **COMMAND STAFF:**

Staff 1 – Sgt. Jeff Jablonsky – LASD Liaison  
Staff 10 – Sam Cramer – Chief Communications Officer  
Staff 11 - Debby Miles – Deputy Chief Communications Officer (DCCO)  
Staff 12 – Jason Tucker - ADCCO and RDT Chief Communications Officer  
R003 – Robert Tucker - RDT Operations Officer

### **SUMMARY:**

On May 10<sup>th</sup> 2007 at approximately 2130 hours the Disaster Communications Service Rapid Deployment Team (RDT) was activated at the request of the Avalon Sheriff Station for deployment to Catalina Island for the purpose of providing direct communication and liaison traffic between the Command Post, CEOC and any other agencies that were in need of such services. It was understood that power, telephone, cell phone and radio communication was intermittent.

A first wave seven-member team assembled in San Pedro for transport to Catalina Island via the Los Angeles Port Police Boat. A secondary Team of four responded to the CEOC to operate the Radio Room and to provide any additional assistance that the Sergeant deemed necessary. The RDT arrived on the Island on Friday May 11, at 0325 hours and reported to the Command Post located in the City of Avalon City Hall. After receiving a briefing from the IMT Team Communications Officer and Deputy Bornstein; the RDT setup their equipment, placed shadow operators with Fire Command and Sheriff and established communications with the CEOC.

RDT command staff per a briefing was informed that the following might go down for an extended period or was operating intermittently;

- Wireless phones
- T1 Internet connection for LASD and County Fire Station 55
- LASD Radio Communications
- Possibly phone service for land lines on fiber optic
- Possibly phone service for land lines on copper

The first team was relieved by a team of four on Friday night and they were ordered to stand down on the morning of May 12. The first team, while debriefing at EOB on May 12 was ordered to redeploy back to Catalina at 1515 hours; they arrived in Catalina at 1910 hours and stayed on the Island until May 15 working 12/12 shifts. Additional DCS Members continued to staff the CEOC and Radio Room throughout the entire activation. Other members acted as scribes and kept track of all messages from their home stations.

DCS was used to;

- Communicate with the Mainland;
- Communicate with the Isthmus;
- Communicate with the Hospital, when affected;
- Shadow and thereby link key decision makers with each other;
- Provide additional staff and administrative services as needed.

DCS was kept in standby mode until Avalon Sheriff Station determined that the communications system was stabilized on May 19.

## **TRAINING ITEMS AND IMPROVEMENT POINTS:**

### **DRILLS:**

1. Though we are a volunteer disaster relief communications Organization we need to press our membership to participate in more training opportunities so that we can maintain a honed set of skills. If we don't use them we will lose them.
2. A Net Control course should be authored and taught to members. The Executive Staff must set parameters to ensure that those who take the course are held responsible for practicing that skill.

### **SCHEDULING:**

1. Need Sgt. Jablonsky to teach a staffing class so that we can become better at scheduling out members for extended activations.

### **LOGISTICS:**

1. We need to make a master resource list of equipment by member and by station with a pre-determined check list for deploying the equipment.
2. We must manufacture a master operation flow chart that we can use in the field.
3. We need to get members who do not have a uniform, into the proper uniform.

### **COMMAND:**

1. It has become evident that since the Rapid Deployment Team (which is made up of members from almost every district station) is the most active group in DCS, they have the knowledge base and skills to effectively manage an incident. The result is that going forward there must be a member of the RDT present on scene for as long as any major incident is deemed active.