SATUREN Newsletter To Be Temporarily On Hold While Editor Recovers From Surgery

Jackson, MS, (12/2402018) – The weekly SATUREN Newsletter will be temporarily on hiatus while the Editor recovers from rotator cuff surgery during the first 6 to 8 weeks of 2019. It will be published again once the Editor is capable of doing so.

Radio Amateurs In Position To Support Emergency Communication After Tsunami

IARU Region 3 (12/24/2017) – Radio amateurs in Indonesia’s Banten Province are in position to support emergency responders with any necessary emergency communication in the wake of a “stealth tsunami” on 22 December, that struck without warning. Indonesia’s Meteorology, Climatology and Geophysics Agency concluded that a volcanic eruption triggered a landslide underwater at Anak Krakatau.

The tsunami struck in the Sunda Strait between the islands of Java and Sumatra, which connects the Java Sea to the Indian Ocean. Rescue and relief activities are under way. The death toll is expected to top 400, and many people are reported to be still missing. Fatalities occurred in the Pandeglang, South Lampung, and Serang regions of Indonesia. Some 1,500 people were reported injured.

IARU Region 3 Disaster Communications Coordinator Dani Hidayat YB2TJV, said ORARI, Indonesia’s IARU member-society, would use 7.110 MHz for any relief and recovery communication. An ORARI CORE emergency team is using a VHF repeater for regional communication.

ORARI reported that the LAPAN A2 satellite (IO-86) was being pressed into service for emergency communication purposes during the relief and recovery effort. IO-86 should not be used at this time for non-emergency traffic.

“ORARI Daerah Banten, immediately deployed the CORE ORARI Banten team to Cilegon and Serang where the disaster occurred to help the existing volunteer team,” said a report on the ORARI website.

Philadelphia Disaster Team Responds To Major Apartment Building Fire

Philadelphia, PA (12/14/2018) - In the early morning hours of Monday, 10 December, fire broke out in a large four-story apartment complex in the Overbrook section of West Philadelphia. The fire quickly engulfed the upper floors of the very large apartment complex, forcing the evacuation of all of its nearly 100 residents. The fire quickly grew to 5 alarms requiring over 150 emergency response personnel to assist. Residents were quickly evacuated to a nearby school where additional services were available.

The Philadelphia EDS Team quickly mobilized with a canteen on scene within 25 minutes of the fire happening. Team members provided hydration and meals along with hand warmers, blankets and dry gloves to both first responders and residents on scene. After the reception center was established the disaster team members began providing support to those at the school with meals, clothing, baby supplies and comfort kits in addition to the very critical Emotional and Spiritual Care (ESC) support.

As the day concluded so did the on-scene services, after more than 19 hours serving at the site of the fire in support of emergency personnel. Support of the residents continued as the reception center was transitioned into a shelter.

Since the day of the incident the EDS personnel have been supporting residents at the shelter and those who have alternative arrangements offsite. Meals are being provided daily to residents and staff. Coordination is also taking place with partner agencies including the Philadelphia Office of Emergency Management.

On Friday, a Multi-Agency Resource Coordination Center (MARCC) was established at the school, bringing in partners from state and local government agencies, as well as the non-profit community, to provide additional support services to clients. In addition to our daily meals, The Salvation Army has provided vouchers, gift cards and transportation assistance to those impacted by this terrible tragedy.