

# The DC Emergency Radio Network



**“Connecting neighbors in an emergency.”**



**The DC Emergency Radio Network** is available as an alternate means of communication during an emergency. In the event of a neighborhood or city-wide power, telephone and Internet failure, the DC Emergency Radio Network (DCERN) can keep you in touch with your neighbors.

The DCERN will use family radio service (FRS) radios on channel 1, no privacy channel (subchannel 0).\*

Many people in Washington, DC already have FRS radios. (FRS radios are those small handheld walkie-talkie radios that family and friends use to keep in touch at parks, on ski slopes and in malls. FRS radios are license-free and have a range of 1/4 to 1 mile.)

If normal modes of communication go down—be it because of a terrorist attack, power outage, storm or other problem—the DC Emergency Radio Network is a pre-planned way of communicating neighborhood news and information.

The DCERN may also be called into service for other emergencies, such as searching for a lost child, or if neighbors need to evacuate their homes. If the power goes out, turn your FRS radio on.

FRS radios capture the strongest signal, so you'll hear only the person who's talking at that moment and who has the most powerful signal—likely to be your nearest neighbor who's transmitting. The DC Emergency Radio Network will work a little like a relay, with a message being transmitted person by person down the line. The DCERN may include local police and fire officials.

That's it: If the Internet fails, or if there's some other emergency, tune your FRS radio to the DC Emergency Radio Network on channel 1, no subchannel. The DCERN may be your pipeline to emergency help and information.

To join the DCERN, all you need is a FRS radio. For more information, visit [www.dcradio.org](http://www.dcradio.org).

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\*Channels are different frequencies; subchannels, also called CTCSS codes, are "privacy codes" that enable you to limit who can be part of your talk-group. For emergency communications CTCSS codes should be off: displayed as 0 on FRS radios. Channel 1 is 462.5625 MHz.