

MTA's Ralph Sbragia Honored for Disaster Service Work in OC

(Sept. 26, 2001) Ralph G. Sbragia, an MTA Safety Compliance inspector, recently was promoted to the rank of sergeant by the Orange County Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (OCRACES).



Ralph G. Sbragia

OCRACES is a volunteer organization operated under the auspices of the Orange County Sheriffs Department's communications section. It provides communications support and technical expertise during local and regional emergencies.

Sbragia has been an active member of the group since obtaining his amateur (ham) radio license in February 1992. Last January, he was honored as the OCRACES' Member of The Year for 2000.

Sbragia's leadership roles have included coordinating OCRACES' participation in annual national emergency preparedness "Field Day" exercises and coordinating support of more than 25 law enforcement teams participating in the annual Baker-to-Vegas Challenge Cup relay foot race.

Assists in emergency preparedness

At the MTA, besides his Safety Compliance duties, Sbragia continues to assist Emergency Preparedness Coordinator Kathy Murrell in the development of an amateur radio Disaster Communication Group.

During times of disaster or crisis, the group assists the MTA with communications between its properties and between the MTA and the city, county and state Emergency Operations Centers. His skills also were used during the MTA's Y2K preparation and the Democratic National Convention.

Sbragia provides training to MTA employees interested in becoming amateur radio operators and participating in the MTA Disaster Communication Group. Classes are held at lunch as interest and students are available.

If you're interested in Sbragia's work or in any classes offered, e-mail or contact him at 922-7369. "HamBones" can reach him at W6CSP.

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