

DISASTERCOM

DERA Newsletter

51 Years of Service

December 2013



Communications Summit Cancelled

The North American Emergency Communications Summit originally featured as our lead article in the October 2013 newsletter and detailed in our December 2013 newsletter has been cancelled by the hosting organization. DERA has revised this online version of the newsletter to reflect that cancellation. The original article has been completely removed to avoid confusion.

While DERA was responsible for several breakout sessions, we were not hosting the overall conference itself.

The conference was cancelled because the host facility became unavailable and the program coordinators were unable to locate a suitable replacement.

DERA is currently working to arrange workshops in Huntsville, Alabama, August 15-17, 2014.

DERA Member Supplies Available

DERA Online Store

www.cafepress.com/disasters



DisasterCom is the newsletter of DERA International. News items and articles are always welcome.

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Editor: (Vacant)

Associate Editor: Eric Ritter

Membership in this Nonprofit Association is open to all who share our commitment to effective disaster preparedness and response.

Join online at: www.disasters.org/dera/register.htm or see the membership link at our home page, www.disasters.org

The Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Response Association, International

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www.disasters.org

DERA International

P.O. Box 797
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DERA is a Nonprofit, U.S. IRS 501(c)(3) Disaster Service and Professional Association Established in 1962
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DERA QR-Code. Please copy & share.

Partnerships & Affiliations Include

ARRL
American Radio Relay League
www.arrl.org

CNA
Colorado Nonprofit Association
www.ColoradoNonprofits.org

EM Forum and EIIP
www.emforum.org


EMLRC
Emergency Medicine Learning Resource
Center
www.emlrc.org

FAIRS
Foundation for Amateur International
Radio Service
www.fairs.org

Florida VOAD
www.flvoad.org

International Assn of Emergency Managers
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www.iaem.com

NIAR
National Institute of Amateur Radio (India)
www.niar.org



Many Waters Resource Network, Inc.
Building Teams to Build The Future

**Linking
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for Development, Public Works,
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352-219-4502
<http://www.manywaters.org>

DERA Seeks Volunteers

DERA is looking for member volunteers for the following positions:

- **Online EOC Watch Officers**
- **Web Manager**
- **Social Media Manager**
- **Speakers Bureau Manager**
- **Membership Committee Members**
- **Conference Bridge Manager**
- **Disaster Logistics Coordinator**
- **Public Information Officer**

All jobs can be performed from home! If you are interested in helping out in any of these important positions, please send email to:

dera@disasters.org



Members:

Please send us news and photos.

Everyone is interested In what you are doing.

Send to:

editor@disasters.org

or mail to:

DERA Member News
P.O. Box 797
Longmont, CO 80502 USA

Communicating Without Infrastructure

As we watched the horrific news reports of Typhoon Haiyan striking the Philippines – and a tornado hitting Washington, IL – those of us involved in emergency disaster response thought about everything first responders need to do.

As the designers and manufacturers of high- power, high-clarity loudspeaker systems, we immediately thought of getting incident commanders to the most-devastated sites with our portable SoundCommander SC1100 systems.

For us, it's straightforward: When storms knock out power lines and cell-phone towers, any communications infrastructure likely is rendered useless. And if service is still available, phone calls, and text messages may be impossible to access due to extremely heavy call volume and emails can be impractical or impossible to access if people can't get to use their computers and their mobile devices.

A battery-powered, high output, lightweight portable loudspeaker system – with the power to get victims' attention and voice clarity that will be clearly understood immediately – can provide life-saving instructions without any infrastructure. With the ability to carry the speaker system by its handle, shoulder strap or as a backpack, responders can get the messages and voice communication to the most needed areas making rescue efforts more effective.

We were reminded of our SoundCommander's benefits when we read this [blog post](#) by Jon Marcus, a writer based in Boston. He points out how restoring technology infrastructure has become an essential part of emergency recovery, just as it has gotten more complicated—and disasters seemingly more frequent and destructive.

Nobody can ever predict when that infrastructure will be fully restored. The best recovery plans can always hit snags for any number of factors that are beyond human control. Yet, people still need instructions during rescue operations and during stays in temporary facilities that provide very basic medical care and housing.



Our location:

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Phone: (678) 331-3190
Fax: (678) 331-3170

Our Products:

- [SoundCommander](#)
- [AlertCommander](#)
- [Rhino "Boots"](#)
- [Hoop Decon Wash](#)
- [Rescue Ropes](#)

Our Website:

www.imlcorp.com



Loudspeaker systems can provide that communication. Our SoundCommanders provide a range of system sizes and configurations to meet any type of emergency- response need. They can keep the victims and responders informed and help save lives when disasters strike by providing stability until all forms of infrastructure are restored.

Visit our [SoundCommander](#) pages to learn more, and then [contact us](#) or one of our [dealers/distributors](#) for answers to your questions and to arrange a demonstration.

Clearly: Intelligible Speech

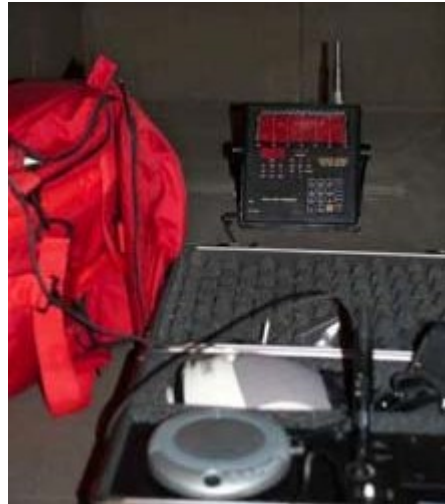
You should be able to get your emergency management messages across with a SoundCommander loudspeaker system. Our SC1100 and SC5600 systems both averaged 0.84 with a top reading of 0.87 STI (Speech Transmission Index) during recently conducted speech intelligibility tests.

Our readings are well above the 0.70 STI standard for speech intelligibility as specified in UFC-4-021-01 for mass notification sound systems and the NFPA 72 fire code. NFPA 72 provides the latest safety provisions to meet society's changing fire detection, signaling, and emergency communications demands in addition to the core focus on fire alarm systems.

Both references include requirements for mass notification systems used for weather emergencies; terrorist events; biological, chemical and nuclear emergencies; and other threats. Those requirements cover the application, installation, location, performance, inspection, testing and maintenance of warning equipment and emergency communications systems (ECS) and their components.

STI is based on the generation and analysis of an artificial test signal that replaces the speech signal. It accounts correctly for band-pass limiting, noise, reverberation, echoes, and non-linear distortion. Speech intelligibility is critical because the only sure way to alert or instruct a crowd of anxious or panicked people simultaneously is by audible voice and tone systems. Loud and clear voice instructions and warning tones have the highest probability of notifying people of an impending or real time emergency. Even in non-emergency situations, the same systems can help manage large crowd movement more efficiently.

For more details check out [SoundCommander](#) page or contact us through our [Contact page](#). We will be able to answer all of your questions and arrange a demonstration.



Hearing Emergency Management Concerns at EMEX

The emergency management officials we spoke to recently at EMEX were loud and clear about what they need to respond effectively to natural disasters and incidents requiring crowd control and dissemination of information. They want highly portable and easily deployed mass notification systems with

sound power and voice clarity that work with maximum efficiency to prolong battery life. It's good to know we have SoundCommander systems that meet those needs.



Visitors to our booth described our portable SC1100CP Command Pack system as "slick."

They said they liked the carry options (shoulder bag, back pack or handcarry) multiple plug-in options, three volume controls, combination of high power and small size. That's on top of our highly efficient drivers that provide more output with less power consumption.

Emergency managers spoke quite a bit about having our systems placed on response vehicles and command vehicles, and they were pleased to hear about our capabilities to customize speaker systems to meet their mobile needs.

With weather emergencies in the news more than ever before, a good loudspeaker system is the heart of an effective mass notification system to help control the situation. Visit our [Emergency Responders Page](#) to grasp the concept, and then [contact us](#) for a demonstration and sound planning.



**IML Corporation
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Phone: (678) 331-3190
Fax: (678) 331-3170**

Congratulations to IML Corporation and Stefan Pollack for 15 years of DERA Membership, 1998-2013.

IMLCORP, LLC was founded as a U.S. veteran-owned small business, in November 1991. The majority of IML products are designed and manufactured at the IML facility in Marietta, Georgia, USA. IMLCORP is an approved GSA supplier to the U.S. government. Many of our **SoundCommander®** models also have NATO Stock Numbers (NSN). The global customer base for SoundCommander® and other products includes:

- Public Safety
- Police
- Fire
- First Responders
- Disaster Management
- Emergency Mass Notification
- Schools and College Campuses
- Hospital Campuses
- Ports and Adjacent Waters
- Airports
- Public Venues
- National Guard Units
- US and Allied Military Forces
- Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)

GSA Pricing for NVOAD Volunteer Organizations

IMLCORP is pleased to announce that GSA pricing is now available to members of **National Voluntary Organizations Active in a Disaster (NVOAD)** involved with disaster relief and emergency assistance.

We are reprinting below the message we received from GSA. We participate in the GSA Advantage program – Contract GS-07F-9199S – which will now allow many organizations, including local, county and state government and recognized non government organizations (NGO's), to purchase emergency tactical and mass notification loudspeaker systems for emergency disaster response and management.

Some of the functional areas covered include:

- Emergency preparedness;
- Crowd control;
- Information dissemination prior to, during and after a disaster;
- Response to terrorist incidents;
- Voice audio Information dissemination to people affected by an incident;
- Emergency evacuations
- Control of personnel in temporary refugee camps or at food, water and clothing distribution points.

Newly qualified organizations are now able to purchase the equipment at the same “best price” offered to the federal government through the GSA system. Organizations involved in some of the above functions can include: first responders, emergency managers, fire services, hospitals, law enforcement agencies and religious-based and secular NGOs . These organizations may now purchase **SOUNDCOMMANDER®** high-power, long-range portable and mounted tactical and wide-area loudspeaker systems via GSA.

Here is the message:

Subject: New Authorization for National Voluntary Organizations Active in a Disaster (NVOAD) to Purchase via Schedules

GSA Schedule contractors can now sell to the National Voluntary Organizations Active in a Disaster (NVOAD) through their Federal Supply Schedules contract. Section 2 of the Federal Supply Schedules Usage Act of 2010 (Public Law 111-263), states that the Administrator of General Services may provide for the use of Federal Supply Schedules, by other qualified organizations to facilitate emergency preparedness and disaster relief. Under the Act, the term qualified organization means a relief or disaster assistance organization as described in section 309 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5152).

GSA, pursuant to this Act, has authorized the NVOAD members to access Schedules when purchasing in furtherance of emergency preparedness and disaster relief. GSA Order 4800.2H, Eligibility to Use GSA Sources of Supply, has been updated to reflect this new eligible ordering activity.

This authorization allows for immediate access to all Schedules, when the NVOAD members are purchasing in furtherance of purposes of emergency preparedness and disaster relief.

Purchases under this authority by other qualified organizations shall be used only in furtherance of purposes determined to be appropriate to facilitate emergency preparedness and disaster relief and set forth in guidance by the Administrator of General Services, in consultation with the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency. The authority under this subsection may not be used to purchase supplies for resale.

There is no modification, required at this time, to your Schedule contract in order to accept orders from the NVOAD members. Acceptance of orders from the National Volunteer Organizations Active in a Disaster, is voluntary. Schedule contractors may decline an order, for any reason, within a five-day period after receipt of the order; however, credit card orders must be declined within 24 hours (GSAM 552.232-79). Orders placed under this authority are subject to the Industrial Funding Fee and should be reported quarterly on your 72a form under your Federal sales.

We urge you to visit our [SOUNDCOMMANDER®](#) pages to learn more about our systems and call us – Toll Free: 866-IML-CORP (866-465-2677). We can help you match our high power, siren, tone and voice audio emergency loudspeaker equipment to your needs.

IML Corporation
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Membership Invitation



Founded in 1962

MISSION

Preparedness - Communications - Logistics - Professional Association

DERA is a Nonprofit Disaster Service and Professional Organization.

Our members work together as a world-wide network of disaster preparedness specialists, response and recovery teams, trainers, consultants, technical experts, researchers and project managers.

We help disaster victims by improving planning, communications and logistics, conducting training events and community preparedness programs, and by sponsoring emergency response teams.

We sponsor a school awards program that encourages students to study the effects of disasters and to initiate projects that reduce local hazards and improve community preparedness, safety and environmental protection.

As an international professional association, our membership is composed of key leaders in the field of emergency management from around the world, including government officials, volunteers, consultants, business managers, researchers, educators, students and wide range of charitable groups.

Our newsletter, DisasterCom, brings current information about developments in emergency management and reports on the activities of our global membership.

We sponsor research projects and the publication of emergency management guides, case studies, technical assessments, preparedness materials, and an annual peer-reviewed journal.

If you share our vision of commitment and service, we would welcome you as a member.

Please complete the application that follows or contact us for further information.

**DERA
P.O. Box 797
Longmont, CO 80502**

www.disasters.org

Professional Affiliation
Membership Application



Name: _____ Title: _____

Organization: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP/Postal Code: _____

Country, if not USA or Canada: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____ Radio Callsign: _____

Please Select Membership Classification
Enclose Check or Money Order for Dues Payment
Amounts are in U.S. Dollars

Individual Membership
\$20.00 per year
\$450.00 Lifetime Membership

Nonprofit Organization
\$35.00 per year

Sponsor Level Membership
\$35.00 per year

Governmental Office
\$35.00 per year

Executive Sponsor
\$75.00 or more

Small Business
\$50.00 per year
Please contact us for corporate membership

Foreign currency and drafts are credited at commercial exchange rates. All checks must be payable through a U.S. bank.
Add \$5 per year if you wish newsletter sent by Airmail, or \$25 for Global Priority Mail. Rates are valid for 2013.

You are welcome to pay multiple years in advance.

Join online with any major charge card at www.disasters.org

or mail this application with check or money order to

DERA Membership
P.O. Box 797
Longmont, CO 80502-0797
USA

Please tell us if a member referred you so we can thank them: _____