

PVTAC - Pleasant Valley Telecommunications Advisory Council
5225 Felicia Street, Camarillo, CA 93012
TAX ID: 84-1903302

PVTAC Primary Mission

The Pleasant Valley Telecommunications Advisory Council is organized under section 501(c)(3) as a tax-exempt, nonprofit corporation dedicated to providing community telecommunications advise, education, training and technical experience.

Under its charter, PVTAC will provide these services to other organizations that participate in or make use of emergency services in Ventura County. Such organizations include nonprofits, schools and associations, homeowners associations, CERT organizations, and Amateur radio associations.

PVTAC is an organization made up of people within Ventura County who have unique and highly sought-after skills in various areas of telecommunications. All of those serving as PVTAC members give their time freely to assist other organizations that do not have telecommunications expertise and are in need of these services provided by PVTAC.

Further, we realized the need for this type of organization because as experts in our given telecommunications fields we are being called upon individually to provide these services to other organizations. As a group we can better offer the desired level of expertise in the specific telecommunications areas as needed.

PVTAC continues to fund amateur radio disaster communications systems by way of a interconnected network of Multi County wide area mountaintop voice and digital relay systems. Funding is also provided to secure equipment to utilize these systems by trained radio operators. PVTAC provides industry expertise in aiding Local Agencies in their communications whether it is for their day-to-day operations or during times of disaster.

PVTAC Amateur Radio Disaster Communications systems are used in supporting our local charitable events as in the Camarillo Air Show, Camarillo Christmas Parade, Ventura Marathon, Santa to the Sea Marathon, Ride-for-the-Red bicycle and the Aut2Run for Autism.

When disaster strikes these same amateur radio disaster communications systems are then turned over to the trained volunteers in supporting our local agencies. For the Ventura County Office of Emergency Services in Emergency Operations Centers, Ventura County Fire Department communications support at Fire Camps, Ventura County EMS in County Hospital communications, and the American Red Cross for shelter management.

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The following is a community information release of December 12, 2019

Pleasant Valley Telecommunications Advisory Council (PVTAC), is a 501(c)3 charity, specifically focused on supporting community telecommunications related activities, including local amateur radio and related equipment installed around Ventura County. That amateur radio equipment has been critical in helping to keep the community informed about fire activity and public safety in recent years as the local area has been plagued by very large wildfires – including, in just the last couple of weeks, the Maria Fire within view of your headquarters, the Easy Fire in Simi and Moorpark, the Getty Fire in the LA basin, the Saddle Ridge Fire in the San Fernando Valley, the Tick Fire in Santa Clarita, the Wendy Fire in Newbury Park, among others.

In the aftermath of these recent fires--plus the huge Thomas Fire in 2017 and Woolsey Fires in 2018, ham radio (amateur radio) operators were a key source of information on what was really happening on the ground. Information from those ham radio operators was obtained from a network of radio repeaters, high speed ham radio network nodes, radio receivers, SDR, and other equipment on mountain tops, located across Ventura County, Santa Barbara County, and Los Angeles County.

In fact, the high speed ham radio network was the source of the very first video of the Thomas Fire as it surged from Santa Paula towards Ventura, even before people in Ventura had been warned of its approach. Those ham radio resources were also used to live stream information on the fires 24/7 throughout the fires. The Sulphur Mountain repeater was mentioned in the Washington Post, talking about how the power, phone, and Internet was out in Ojai, ham radio was the only way to figure out what was going on. The same network has now been used during three very busy wildfire years for Ventura County, in 2017, 2018, and 2019. In addition to those uses, the amateur radio equipment is used as part of the Auxiliary Communications Services (ACS) for Ventura County and Amateur Radio Emergency Services (ARES) in formal support of such agencies as the Red Cross and the Ventura County Sheriff's Office, if activated.