

Field Day Safety Officer June 2006

On Field Day you have many people with different skills doing new tasks or things they have not done for a while. They may have experience in some areas, but not in all facets of the tasks that happen. Many talented people just need a little coordination. To paraphrase James Burke of the British Broadcasting Company "You could get hurt or seriously dead using some of this equipment!" A safety officer needs to be appointed to observe and correct problems. Depending on the size of the group it may be part of one person's duties or a specific individual can be kept busy full time.

Last year in the space of three minutes while standing on a step ladder, I had people engaging me in a conversation, tying off coax that was being pulled up the tower, and removing tools that were being used. My error. I did not have a ground person deflecting the "help". Do not be helpful. Ask before assisting in activities.

The Safety Officer will oversee the following areas:

Tower raising and lowering, with a captain in charge to coordinate the multiple people needed.
Proper tower climbing procedures

Generator placement – noise, ventilation, weather considerations
Gasoline storage and generator refueling
Grounding of generator

Proper AC cordage – appropriate gauge, good condition, connections protected from the weather.
Use of Ground Fault Interrupters

Guy wires, stakes, AC cords and coax marked for visibility.
Guy wire ends, AC cords and coax coiled up to prevent tripping over.
Tools picked up and stowed.
Night time site lighting

Checks for the safety of visitors to the site.

RF hazards

Is aware of weather conditions, monitors Skywarn frequency.

Works with site Security Officer.

Is familiar with the Safety Tips section of the ARRL Field Day package.

Identifies who has First Aid and CPR or more advanced medical training.

Has direct telephone number to community Public Safety Answering Point. Dialing from a cellular telephone gets you to the State Police who then have to transfer it to the proper agency.

Equipment needed:

First aid kit

Fire extinguisher

AC testers
Hard Hats

Barricade tape
Climbing harness

Flagging tape

To borrow a phrase from New England Telephone
"Nothing is so important, that it can not be done safely."

Bruce Pigott KC1US
<<http://cpsg.amateur-radio.net/>>

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