

**REPORT OF THE RF SAFETY COMMITTEE  
TO THE  
ARRL BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

July 2010

The RF Safety Committee participated in the following areas over the past six months:

1. RF Safety Committee Activities.
2. Monitoring recent scientific studies regarding RF Safety.
3. Participation in the scientific RF Safety community.
4. Administrative issues.

1 RF Safety Committee Activities

- 1.1 The Committee has been reviewing pertinent article submitted to QST for RF Safety issues. A number of articles that introduce shortened (“compromise”) antennas have come to our attention. A common trait of compromise antennas is that they tend to generate high electric and/or magnetic fields. In some cases the unexpectedly large fields near the antenna exceed Maximum Permissible Exposure limits and care must be taken to avoid excessive exposure. The RFSC is considering developing a document to help amateurs understand this effect.

2 Monitoring Scientific Studies

- 2.1 The legislature of the state of Maine considered a bill to require a warning label on cellular telephones, similar to that which is required on cigarette packs. The supporters of the bill used language intended to evoke fear of RF energy and ignored the many studies that continue to show that no health effects are in evidence when well designed studies of cell phone users are performed. The Maine legislature defeated the bill when it was brought to a vote.

3 Participation in the Scientific RF Safety Community

- 3.1 Mr. Hare continues to serve on the ICES (IEEE) SCC-28 RF Safety Standards Committee. He generally shares the voting ballots for changes to the standards with the Committee prior to voting on them.
- 3.2 Dr. Lapin continues to testify about RF safety at zoning board hearings when cellular tower placement is being considered.
- 3.3 Dr. Lapin continues to serve as a member of the IEEE Committee on Man and Radiation, COMAR.
- 3.4 Dr. Siwiak was quoted in Miami newspaper article following the death of a person who was setting up an antenna too close to a power line. The antenna was purported to be intended for use to communicate with Haiti following the earthquake there.

4 Administrative Issues

- 4.1 The RF Safety Committee welcomes David Norris, K5UZ, as our new ARRL Board Liaison.

Gregory Lapin, Ph.D., P.E., N9GL  
Chair, ARRL RF Safety Committee

**The ARRL RF Safety Committee**

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