

Amateur Radio Operator Readiness

Planning a "GO-KIT" for communications and personal survival in emergencies or disaster.

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CLICK MOUSE BUTTON TO ADVANCE SLIDES


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Personal Protection:

1. **Your personal safety & health should be your 1st consideration!**
2. **Gloves, Ear, and Eye Protection**
 - a. Heat, cold or chemicals
 - b. Noise control and message comprehension
 - c. Flying objects, dust and irritants
3. **Breathing Masks and Respirators**
 - a. Dusts, cinders, and chemicals
4. **Your personal medications availability can alter your readiness.**


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"GO-KIT" Topics:

1. "GO-Kit" Principles
2. Personal Protection
3. Power considerations
4. Rigs & Antennas
5. Personal Comfort
6. The "GO-KIT" Itself
7. Logistics
8. "GO-KIT" Management
9. Pre-Deployment.....A few important words


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Power Considerations:

1. **Never assume commercial power will be available, or will maintain during the entire event.**
2. **Never rely on only your vehicle battery to power your gear...You may need it to escape or for refuge!**
3. **Sealed Lead Acid's or Gell Cells**
 - a. Avoid deep discharge failure.
4. **Lead acid car-type batteries**
5. **Bring extra batteries & charger, or Alkaline batteries for your HT power.**
6. **Have an adequate power supply to run your gear and charge batteries just in case AC is available at your location.**
7. **Always consider your gear's power requirements, and use only sufficient power to communicate.**


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"GO-KIT" Principles: *Plan ahead!*

1. **Ability to deploy yourself and equipment on short notice.**
2. **Plan for up to 72 hour deployment, or more depending on the severity of the event.**
3. **You must be able to be completely self-sufficient.**
4. **Essential gear must be assembled and ready to move to a designated area immediately when notified.**
5. **Do not become a burden to the emergency operation, by deploying unprepared.**

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Rigs & Antennas:

- **Never depend solely on an HT**

1. **A 25 watt radio is the minimum essential for reliable operation under emergency conditions**
2. **The ideal emergency equipment will provide operation in VHF, UHF, and HF for maximum coverage, as privileges permit.**
 - a. **Other modes can be beneficial:**
 - 1] Digital message: Winlink, D-Chat, PSK, etc.
 - 2] Digital Voice: D-Star
3. **Must use some increased gain antennas, not a "rubber ducky".**
 - a. Telescoping Whip
 - b. Twin Lead or solid J-pole
 - c. Mag-Mount and/or Ground Plane type verticals
 - d. NVIS on HF.

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Rigs & Antenna CAUTIONS:

- You must have sufficient coax cable to operate at a SAFE distance from your antenna's radiation.
- Beware of antenna placement near objects and bystanders.
- Locate any gas powered generator away from your station setup.
 - Carbon monoxide can be lethal, while virtually undetectable.
- Extra Patch cords and inter connectors are a *must!*


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The "GO-KIT": (Cont.)

- **General "Full Service Kit"**
 1. For deployment beyond 48 hours of operation
 2. More capable communications Equipment
 3. Greater tools and supplies (technical and personal)
 - a. Electronics basic tool kit; wire, soldering, etc.
 4. Greater power reserve capabilities
 - a. Generator gasoline supplies and batteries.
- **Extended Deployment Kit**
 1. Greater need for self sufficiency
 2. More power, food and personal essentials


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Personal Comfort:

1. Personal comforts help to keep you an effective operator!
2. Extra Clothing, personal & sanitation supplies.
 - a. Seasonal clothing protection (i.e., rain, sun, etc.)
3. Food, water and service supplies for at least 72 hours of deployment.
 - a. Bottled or jugs of water
 - b. Dehydrated or re-constitutable foods
4. Station illumination and adequate lighting for event logging.
5. Sleeping Bags and related items
6. Relaxation items: books, music, AM/FM portable or "crank" radio.

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Checklists of Items:

- Everyone's needs will vary slightly, as will their Checklist.
- Develop your own checklist, or plagiarize our "handout example list", and keep copies of your "final" list in your Go-kits.
- The "handout Checklist" is for guidance only, and is meant to be modified, by you, to your needs.
- Small stuff is **CRUCIAL** "The devil is in the details" Just one bad or missing connector, cable or tool can incapacitate your operation


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The "GO-KIT" Itself:

- Can be comprised of multiple kits tiered toward the operation
- "Basic Kit"
 1. Keep "trickle charged" and handy for ultra fast deployment;
 2. Basic communications equipment and supplies;
 3. Short term personal needs, for 24-48 hours.
 4. Basic kit should be backed up by general "full service kit" which is taken on deployment, but not necessarily used.

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The Logistics "yellow brick road":

- **Use an Efficient Transport Container**
 - Backpack
 - Duffle bag
 - Banker's Box
 - Rubbermaid Container
 - Transportable roll along tool carts
 - Tool Boxes (Metal and Plastic)
 - Military Storage Containers: (wood boxes and ammo cans)
 - Five gallon plastic bucket

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The Logistics “yellow brick road”: (Cont.)

1. Keep the basic kit nearby at all times, for rapid deployment.
2. Keep the 48+ hour “Full Service Kit” in a convenient spot to transport.
3. Arrange your response vehicle to best store the multi-tiered kits efficiently.
4. Have available and use a folding “Hand Truck” for faster loading and unloading.
 - a. Some types can be laid down on roller wheels as a cart. This can be very effective for bulk items.

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Managing the “GO-KIT”

- Use inventory checklists, and update periodically or after a deployment for additions or corrections.
- Check for expiration dates, on food and supplies, and rotate your inventory stock for freshness and useability.
- Keep batteries maintained and charged
 - “Float” battery chargers do a surprisingly good job of keeping rechargeable batteries at the ready.
- Test and use emergency equipment periodically to check reliability, and performance.
- Insure that the latest EMCOM frequencies are programmed into your radios for quick access.

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Critical Pre-Deployment Issues:

- Ensure that your family and loved ones are safe and secure before you deploy to the operation
- Ensure that your family and loved ones have adequate emergency supplies on hand for the duration
- Keep your spirits high, and those of your fellow volunteers, and remember that your are helping others!

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