

Go Kit Considerations

Preparing an Individual Go Kit

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Based on a presentation by Craig Labarge WB3GCK

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www.w3eoc.org

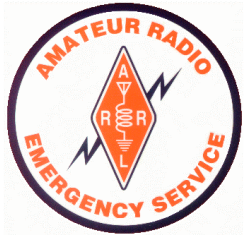


Topics



- Underlying Principles
- Before you deploy...
- Radio, Power, Antennas, and Creature Comforts
- Starter Checklists
- Logistics
- Maintaining the Go Kit
- Hints
- Resources





Underlying Principles



- Be able to deploy on short notice
 - Essential gear assembled & ready
- Plan for up to 72 hour deployment
- Be completely self-sufficient
 - Don't become a burden to emergency operations

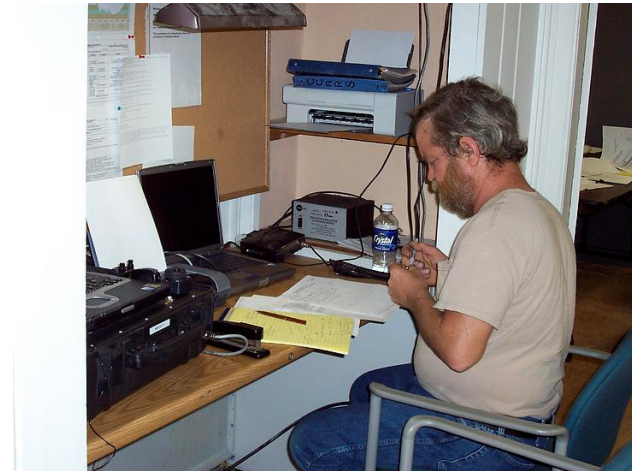
Advanced planning is required



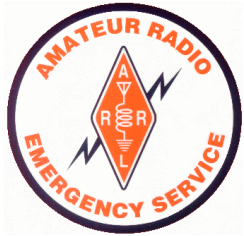
Before you deploy...



- Make sure your family and home are safe and secure
- Make sure your family has adequate emergency supplies on hand
- Prepare a go kit for each family member



You do not want to be worrying about loved ones



Radio Considerations



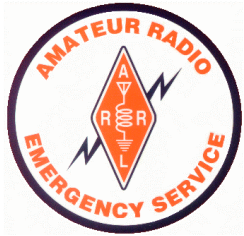
- Select a radio that can provide basic short range voice communications. For most areas a dual band HT is the minimum.
- Consider what your organization agreed to provide your served agency. This could include voice, email, or video.



Power Considerations



- Don't assume commercial power will be available to run your rig, provide lighting, and charge batteries
- Avoid wasting precious gas charging your car battery
- Gel cell batteries are great power sources
 - Good capacity for the cost
- Don't overlook Alkaline batteries to power your HT

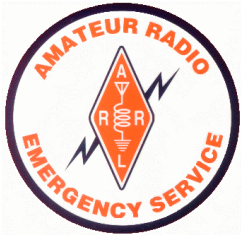


Power Considerations



- Some possibilities
 - Sufficient batteries to go without re-charging
 - Means of charging from a 12-volt source
 - Solar panel to re-charge batteries
 - Generator
- Consider your rig's power appetite
 - Mobile rigs can draw 1 amp or more on receive
 - An HT might draw 25-200 ma on receive
 - HT with a "brick" amp is efficient for high power operations





Antenna Considerations



- Your HT's rubber duck is very inefficient
- Bring along a gain antenna to increase performance & extend battery life
- Some possibilities:
 - Collapsible whip
 - Twinlead J-pole (cheap & effective)
 - Mag mount
 - 1/4-wave groundplane
 - Aftermarket gain antenna





Creature Comforts



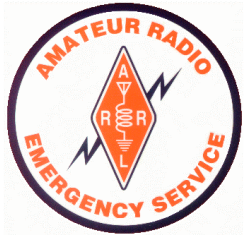
- Bring along what you need to be comfortable in the field
- Pay particular attention to
 - Water (1 gallon per day per person)
 - Non-perishable food which can be eaten cold
 - Suitable clothing/foul weather gear
 - Prescription medications



The “Go Kit”



- Might actually be comprised of multiple kits
 - Basic Kit
 - Keep handy for quick deployment
 - Basic communications equipment & supplies
 - Short-term personal needs
 - 72 Hour Kit
 - Add-on to the basic kit
 - Equipment & creature comfort items for extended operations



The “Go Kit”



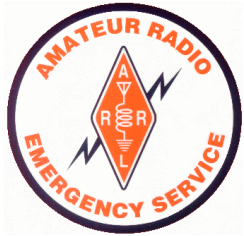
- Specialty kits
 - HF (NVIS)
 - Digital (packet, PACTOR, NBEMS)
 - HSMM (Access point, routers, antennas)
 - Aircraft Flight Kit
 - kit designed for aircraft flight



Starter Checklists



- Your specific needs will vary
- Use the following checklists as a starting point in developing your own Go Kit



Basic Kit



- ✓ HT & spare batteries
- ✓ Gain antenna
- ✓ Earphones
- ✓ Paper & pencil
- ✓ Message forms
- ✓ Cell phone & 12V charger
- ✓ Flashlight
- ✓ Towel
- ✓ Emergency Poncho
- ✓ Reflective Vest
- ✓ FCC License, ARES/RACES, ID, Other Credentials (CERT, first aid, etc)
- ✓ Your ACS phone list/handbook
- ✓ Food & water
- ✓ Appropriate clothing / change of clothing
- ✓ Sunscreen, bug repellent, etc.
- ✓ First aid kit
- ✓ Multi-purpose tool (Leatherman)
- ✓ Duct Tape
- ✓ County map (ADC Map)

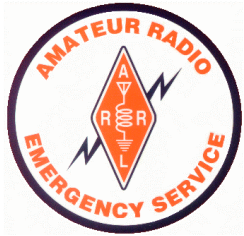


72 Hour Kit

(aka "Disaster Kit")



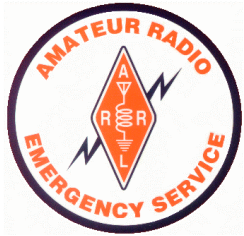
- √ All items in the Basic Kit
- √ Additional radios, packet gear
- √ Additional batteries
- √ Battery charger
- √ Power supply
- √ Extra coax & adapters
- √ SWR meter
- √ Basic hand tools
- √ VOM
- √ Spare fuses
- √ Soldering iron & solder
- √ Electrical tape
- √ Extra cash
- √ Change of clothing
- √ Foul weather gear
- √ Personal hygiene items
- √ Prescription medicines
- √ Food, non-perishable
- √ Drinking water, 3 gallons
- √ Mess kit & utensils
- √ Stove (e.g., Sterno stove)
- √ Waterproof matches
- √ Light source
- √ Shelter (sleeping bag, tent)



Logistics



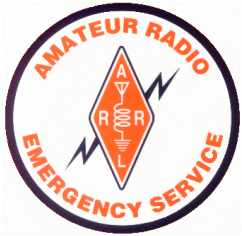
- Use an easy to transport container
 - Backpack
 - Duffel bag
 - 5-gallon bucket
 - Rubbermaid container
- Keep the basic kit nearby at all times
- Keep the 72 hour kit in a convenient spot so you can grab it and go
- Keeping it all together in your car's trunk is ideal



Maintaining the “Go Kit”



- Periodic inventory of contents
- Check for expiration dates and rotate stock
- Keep batteries charged
- Use backup equipment periodically
 - Weekly net check-ins
 - Public service events
- Refine & improve your Go Kit
 - Learn from practice runs



Hints



- Attach a list to your kit with the following:
 - perishables to add to your kit (i.e. water, food)
 - equipment that has been removed from the kit and where it is.
- Take your kit on exercises and other events.
 - These should include all types of weather.
- Over time consider adding higher cost items



Resources



- Many lists available on-line
- September 2010 QST article by KA5CVH that addresses a number of deployment scenarios.

