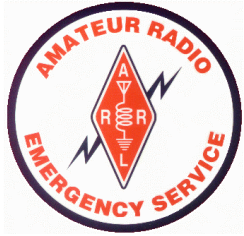


Individual Preparedness

Preparing a "Go Kit"

Craig LaBarge, WB3GCK
AEC, Northeast Section
Chester County ARES/RACES

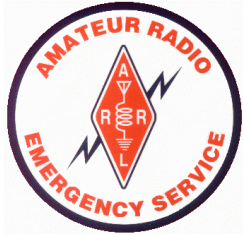


Topics



- Underlying Principles
- Power, Antennas, and Creature Comforts
- Sample Checklists
- Logistics
- Maintaining the “Go Kit”
- Before you deploy...



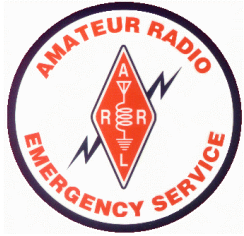


Underlying Principles



- 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



Power Considerations



- Don't assume commercial power will be available to run your rig & 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
 - Readily available; can be scrounged

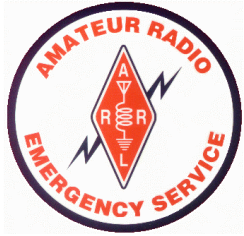


Power Considerations



- 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 QRO power operations



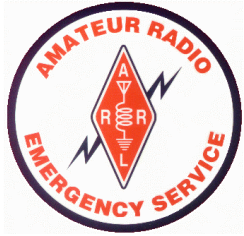


Antenna Considerations



- 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

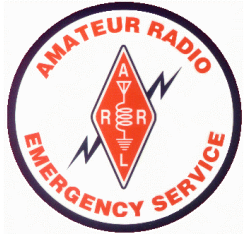




Creature Comforts



- 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



Checklists



- Your specific needs will vary
- Use the following checklists as a starting point in developing your own Go Kit
- Sweat the small stuff -- The Devil is in the details



Basic Kit



- √ HT & spare batteries
- √ Gain antenna
- √ Earphones
- √ Paper & pencil
- √ Message forms
- √ Cell phone & 12V charger
- √ Flashlight
- √ FCC License
- √ ARES/RACES ID
- √ CCAR phone list
- √ Food & water
- √ Appropriate clothing
- √ Sunscreen, bug repellent, etc.
- √ First aid kit

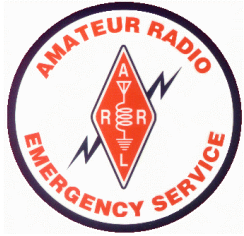


72 Hour Kit

(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 & duct 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



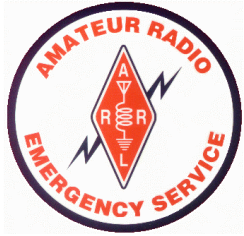
- Use an easy to transport container
 - Backpack
 - Duffle bag
 - 5-gallon bucket
 - Rubbermaid container
- Keep the basic kit nearby at all times
- Keep the 72 hour kit in a convenient spot so you can grab it and go
- Keeping it all together in your car's trunk would be ideal



Managing 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



Before you deploy...



- Make sure your family and home are safe and secure
- Make sure your family has adequate emergency supplies on hand

