

Serving In Emergencies

In the last club meeting we discussed Amateur Radio and its use in emergency situations. The following organizations/uses were discussed: American Red Cross, County EOC, MARS, and RACES.



In this newsletter we will discuss what we can do for these organizations, how we can do it, and what training they require.

What Is Required

County EOC

Trevor Pollock let us know that to work in the EOC we need IS-100 and NIMS-700. He also recommended that at least some of us get IS-200. These programs can be found at <http://training.fema.gov/IS/viewall.asp>.

American Red Cross

For American Red Cross, Joel told us we need to have a background check and do their Intro training.

RACES

At this time, we do not have a local division of RACES. This is a shame as amateur radio can do a lot to help out. You can join the state RACES at: <http://www.cem.utah.gov/radio/races.htm>.

MARS

These organizations used to handle phone calls and other communiques for our troops. With the newer satellite networks, this is no longer the mainstay. MARS are currently reorganizing and appear to be somewhat functioning as RACES for the various armed forces and their reserve units to handle communications needs in emergencies. To join these requires a time commitment and filling out a form on various websites. While this is not Amateur Radio, only Amateur Radio operators may participate.

What We Can Do

County EOC and RACES

We can provide backup for local communication in the event that repeaters and other official radio systems fail. We can do this locally via VHF through a human/radio chain. Additionally, we can do this over a wider range using HF.

Additionally, using ATV and SSTV we can provide imaging services that may not otherwise be possible.

Both of these methods are

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used by various races groups around the country. One such group, which has been reported on in various Amateur Radio publications include Orange County California Races and MESAC (the division of OC RACES for Costa Mesa).

Additionally, especially as part of RACES, we can provide vital links to connect government entities with non-government organizations (NGOs). In an emergency it is important for shelters to be able to report their needs, status and arising emergencies (need for medical, police, etc.) to the government.

American Red Cross

The Red Cross provides shelters, supplies, and assistance in disasters. We can provide communications to assist the Red Cross in a variety of ways. We can help them is with their communications with various entities in the event of an emergency, including with the County EOC.

Additionally, we can help various shelters stay in touch so that families who are separated can know if their loved ones have checked into another shelter. If possible, we can also provide HF phone patches to help them contact families or friends out of the area.

Preparing For an Emergency

If all Amateur Radio operators are caught off guard, best case, they will be busy fending for themselves and their families. In order to serve, we must be ready.

Non-Radio

Preparing for an emergency isn't just a matter of being ready in radio/technical ways. It is being able to provide for your needs and the needs of your families.

72 Hour Kits

Various organizations over the years have suggested 72-hour kits. These kits are everything you think

you and your family will need for 72 hours.

Kits should include basic first aid, shelter, food and water. Beyond this a book, games, etc. can be helpful.

Medication, Fuel and Money

As part of this kit, or in addition to a 72 hour kit there are several items to keep in mind.

Medications, necessary and useful (pain killers), should be kept on hand in quantities necessary for more than 72 hours so that in an emergency at least 72 hours are covered.

Pain killers and other such items should be part of a first aid kit.

Money is always necessary. Various suggestions have been made over the years ranging from \$10-\$100's. This quantity should be adapted to individual and family needs. It is a good idea to keep multiple denominations in this money. Additionally, many recommend that at least 5 dollars be in

quarters and dimes for emergency pay-phone use and other purposes.

No one should assume credit cards and ATM machines will be functioning. Both 9/11 and Hurricane Katrina showed that these cannot be relied upon.

Additionally, keeping some extra fuel on hand is a good idea. It will help make sure you have fuel for your vehicles, fuel for generators (for radio and non-radio use).

Driving on the top half of your tank will not only help ensure that you have some fuel on hand, it can also extend the life of your vehicle.

Radio

Please, provide some suggestions relating to preparing for an emergency; both radio and non-radio. Please, email me at: ae6hr@hotmail.com.

New HAMs

Welcome to: Teresa Judd, KE7OCH; Necia Adams, KE7OCI; Harl Adams, KE7OCJ.