

St. Clair County ARPSC

Go Kit Documentation

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Go-Kits are already packed “radio kits” that have the basic necessary equipment in one location ready in the event of an emergency, or training exercise.

Types of Go Kits

The three types of go kits that we will speak of the most inclusive, a grab bag, a go kit, and a portable shack. All have radios in them, however, they are all used for different purposes. Keep in mind that these are just basic guidelines, and not everyone needs to build these go kits exactly the same, and not everybody needs to have every type of go kit we talk about.

Here are a few examples for go kits, made from readily available items.



Go Bag



Go Kit



Portable Shack

All of these components are readily available and easy to access besides the 19inch rack case used in the extended go kit. They are available but can get costly. Not every go kit has to cost \$200 they can be as little as \$50.

In the following pages, we will describe each of these kits more.

Grab Bags

These are mini go kits but are much smaller. A grab bag should include at least one VHF handheld, and possibly even a UHF or dual band handheld radio. These are great for public service activities, as well as any possible on foot service that may take place during an ARES or RACES activation.

Here is a list of the basic things in a typical grab bag:

- VHF Handheld
 - UHF or dual band is optional (extra bands!).
 - One or more extra batteries with a charger if it can fit.
 - Another option is a speaker mic for the HT.
- Notebook
 - With some pens
- Required ICS Forms

Go Kits

The plus size of a go kit is more suited for mobile operation, or a basic portable/base station setup. These commonly include a VHF mobile radio, with a battery. They can also include a small HF radio. These are great for field operating, or setting up in a vehicle.

Here is a list of basic things in a typical go kit:

- VHF Mobile Radio
 - Could be a dual band, an/or an HF mobile.
 - Know how to program your radio!
- A battery of some sort
 - Sealed Lead-Acid, Lithium Ion, Deep Cycle, etc.
 - Power from car 12v socket.
- Notebook
 - Lots and lots of pens.
- Required ICS Forms

Portable Shack

If you have the equipment to do this do it! This is a case that you can grab and have every type of communication at your disposal. Make sure you have enough power to run your portable shack, as well as copies of the required ICS Forms.

The Essentials

All of the things described previously are ideas and suggestions. You do not need to have a fancy box to have a go kit. All you need is to have some sort of radio in a spot that is ready to grab-and-go in the event of an emergency.

Be prepared.