PERSONAL GO-KIT
FOR
EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS

Presented by
Dan O'Connor, KE7HLR

EMCOMMWEST 2008
Reno, Nevada
May 2–4, 2008

About the Presenter

Dan O'Connor, KE7HLR, is a structural engineer by trade, previously served in the U.S. Navy, and has been a licensed Radio Amateur since 2006. He is a member of the Washoe County ARES®/RACES digital packet team, and a net control operator for the Western Nevada Noon Net, the area's daily ARES®/NTS net.

A believer in preparedness, Dan enjoys assembling, caching, and inventorying his collection of emergency gear and, in his spare time, also enjoys doing the same with his camping gear, on trips with his family and friends.

If you have comments or suggestions for other items to include, please contact me at:

ke7hlr@arrl.net

Introduction

This presentation is intended to get you thinking about your own Go-Kit—why you need one, what items you need to put in it, and how you should divide it up for ease of transportation and for optimum utility. By giving you a view of my own Go-Kit, I hope to offer some suggestions for items to include in your own kit.

Mission of the Emergency Communicator

General

As a volunteer Emergency Communicator, your mission is to get every message you handle to its intended recipient—quickly, accurately, and with a minimum of fuss. Achieving this goal requires that you employ your operational and technical skills at the highest level possible. This means being adequately prepared to handle an emergency communication assignment, so that you can keep focused on the job at hand and avoid unnecessary distractions.

Being prepared for an emcomm assignment involves a wide range of considerations, including radio equipment, power sources, clothing and personal gear, food and water, information and specialized training. Having your Go-Kit planned-out and assembled ahead of time will help you be prepared when the call-out comes. It is important to think through each probable assignment you might be faced with and plan your Go-Kit to meet the situations you might encounter.

Types of Incidents

As an Emergency Communicator, you may be called upon to assist with various disasters, incidents and events, including:

Natural Disasters:

- Earthquake
- Wildfire / Conflagration
- Severe Winter Storm
- Hurricane / Tornado
- Epidemic / Pandemic

Man-Made Incidents:

- Terrorist Attack
- Mass Casualties
- Search and Rescue
- Others (usually do not involve a need for Amateur Radio operators, but may under certain conditions)
    - Multi-Vehicle Pile-Ups (most often in heavy fog)
    - Aircraft Crash
    - Train Derailment
    - Shipwreck / Oil Spill
    - Hazmat Incident

Public Service Events:

- Races and Walk-a-thons
- Parades and Celebrations
- ARRL Field Day

Types of Assignments

As an Emergency Communicator, you may be asked to assist with any of a number of assignments, from a variety of station operating locations, such as:

Base Station

- Incident Command or other Fixed Command Post (Helibase, Staging Areas, etc.)

- Emergency Operations Center

- Hospital

- At Home (HF Long-Haul Relay or Traffic Net)

Field-Portable Station

- Field Command Post

- Shelter

- Aid or Rest Station

Mobile Station

- Mobile Command Post

- Shadow

- Vehicle Ride-Along (Transport, SAG Wagon, etc.)

- Relay Station (Manual Repeater)

Modes of Communications

As an Emergency Communicator, you may be asked to provide communications using a variety of modes, including:

- Tactical Voice Communications (VHF/UHF FM)

- Tactical Message Traffic (VHF/UHF Packet)

- Live Video (Amateur Television)

- Long-Haul Message Traffic (HF SSB Voice or CW)

- Other Available Modes (Telephone, Fax, Agency Radio, Runner)

Length of Assignment

The length of time you are asked to assist with emergency communications will depend on the type and size of the incident and the number of Emergency Communicators available

- Short—A Few Hours to Less Than A Day

- Overnight

- Two to Three Days

- Long-Duration—Greater than 72 Hours

What is a Go-Kit?

- A Go-Kit is a pre-staged collection of equipment and personal gear that you will need to perform your duties as an Emergency Communicator in the event of a call-out.

- Your Go-Kit should be tailored to your needs, your equipment, expected assignments, and expected length of assignments.

Why you need a Go-Kit

Some reasons why you need a Go-Kit:

- In the event of a major disaster, your assignment location will probably be without power, heat, water, and telephone service. Most businesses in the area will probably not be open, due to the emergency.

- As an Emergency Communicator, YOU must provide your own Equipment and Gear.

- YOU are responsible for your own Safety, and YOU must provide for your own Welfare and Comfort.

Building your Go-Kit now ensures:

- The items you need are available when you need them.

- The items you need are where you expect them to be.

When the Activation Call comes, you won't have time to hunt for things!

Types of Go-Kits

Your Go-Kit should be tailored to your needs, your equipment, your expected assignments, and the expected length of assignments. Go-Kits should be broken-up into different types of kits, depending on function and location:

Type by Function

- Types of Incident

- Type of Assignment or Mission

- Length of Assignment

Type by Location

- Carried on Person

- Carried in Vehicle

- Cached at Fixed Location (Home, Office, Shop, etc.)

- Non-Cached Equipment—gathered as needed (Home, Office, Shop, etc.)

Modular Concept

Ideally, your Go-Kit should be divided into small, easily-transportable modules, based on expected Type of Assignment, Length of Assignment, and Storage Location.

Go-Kit modules should supplement each other with additional equipment and supplies, to extend your capabilities and endurance.

Basic Kits

- Day Pack—Items needed for a short-duration or mobile/foot assignment. Keep in vehicle for immediate access.

- 24-Hour Kit—Supplemental items needed for an overnight assignment.

- 72-Hour Kit—Supplemental items needed for an extended assignment of up to 3 days.

Specialty Kits

- Office Kit—Paperwork and operational references that may be useful for setting-up and maintaining a portable or base communications station.

- Portable Radio Kit—the classic "Radio in a Briefcase"—for voice or packet.

- Computer Kit—Notebook computer and interface equipment for packet.

- Tool Kit—Tools and equipment needed to set-up and maintain your radio station.

- Antenna and Mast Kit—Portable antenna, mast, and tripod or guy lines, for setting-up an outdoor antenna.

- Emergency Power Equipment—Batteries, Generator, Cables and related gear.

Miscellaneous Kits

- Additional Gear—Sleeping bag, tent, shade canopy, etc.

- Vehicle Tool Kit—Equipment needed to keep your vehicle going.

- Evacuation Kit—Food, water and equipment needed if it becomes necessary to evacuate from your current location.

A Look Inside KE7HLR's Go-Kit

Day Pack
Kept in my vehicle, ready for immediate use.

- Radio, Handheld, 2m/70cm, Yeasu VX-7R
  - Antenna, flexible, extended-range, dual-band, Comet SMA-24
  - Microphone/Speaker, external, CMP460A
  - Battery Pack, Rechargeable, FNB-80LI (3)
  - Battery Pack, 2 AA, FBA-23
  - Battery Pack, 10 AA, w/ PowerPole connector
    - Spare Batteries, AA (10)
  - Belt Clip
  - Cable, handheld radio external 12Vdc power, w/ PowerPole connector
  - Cable, antenna adapter, SMA to SO-239
- GPS Receiver, Garmin eTrex Legend C
  - Spare Batteries, AA (2)

- Binoculars, compact, 8 x 35

- Flashlight, high-intensity LED, Surefire 6PL, w/ click-on tail cap
  - Spares Carrier, SC1, w/
    - Lamp Assy, P60L
    - Spare Batteries, 123A (6)
- Manual, ARES Field Resources
- Manual, GPS receiver quick reference
- Map, Nevada, laminated
- Map, Northern California, laminated
- Map, Reno/Sparks, laminated
- Multi-Tool, Leatherman *Core*
- Paper, waterproof notebook, 4½" x 7"
- Pen, rolling ball, blue (2)
- Pen, Sharpie marker, black
- Whistle

- Cable Ties, nylon, UV-resistant, asstd.
- Rope, 1/8" nylon (50 ft)

Food and Water:
- Money, $20 in $5's and $10's
- Snacks *(Almonds, trail mix, etc—rotate periodically to keep fresh)*
- Water, bottled, 0.5 L (2)

Clothing and Protective Gear:
- ☐ Ear Plugs, disposable (2 pr)
- ☐ Gloves, leather
- ☐ Goggles, safety, impact-resistant
- ☐ Hat, roll-up
- ☐ Mask, dust (2)
- ☐ Outer Shirt, pullover, wind-resistant
- ☐ Vest, safety, green w/ reflective stripes

Personal Items:
- ☐ Eyeglasses, prescription
- ☐ Lip Balm, Carmex
- ☐ Lotion, hand sanitizer, waterless
- ☐ Meds, prescription (morning and evening doses)
- ☐ Sunscreen, SPF-35

First Aid Kit:
- ☐ Blanket, emergency, mylar, 56" x 84"
- ☐ Clippers, nail
- ☐ Mirror, steel
- ☐ Tweezers

- ☐ Bag, Ziploc, quart
- ☐ Blade, razor, single edge
- ☐ Dressing, adhesive, finger (2)
- ☐ Dressing, adhesive, knuckle (2)
- ☐ Dressing, adhesive, 2" x 3" (2)
- ☐ Dressing, adhesive, 3" x 4" (2)
- ☐ Dressing, adhesive, strip (10)
- ☐ Dressing, gauze pad, 3" x 4" (2)
- ☐ Matches, wind- and water-proof
- ☐ Moleskin, 3" x 4" (4 sht.)
- ☐ Safety Pin (2)
- ☐ Tablets, anti-diarrhea, Imodium A-D
- ☐ Tablets, acid reducer, Zantac 75
- ☐ Tablets, Ibuprofen 200 mg
- ☐ Tape, first aid, 1" cloth
- ☐ Towelette, hand sanitizer (4)

24-Hour Kit
Designed to supplement the Day Pack, this kit is also kept in my vehicle.

- ☐ Radio, Handheld, 2m, Yaesu VX-170
  - ☐ Antenna, OEM
  - ☐ Battery Pack, rechargeable, FNB-83 (2)
  - ☐ Battery Pack, AA, FBA-25A
    - ☐ Spare Batteries, AA (6)
  - ☐ Cable, packet interface, w/ microphone adapter
  - ☐ Charger, 110Vac, NC-88B, w/ PowerPole connector *(use with cable from Day Pack or Office Kit)*

Food and Water:
- ☐ Meal, Ready-to-Eat (3)
  - ☐ Heater, catalytic, MRE (3)

- ☐ Blanket, nylon, fleece-lined, 48" x 56"
- ☐ Cup, steel, canteen
- ☐ Poncho, nylon
- ☐ Towel and washcloth

- ☐ Bag, Trash, 33 gal. (2)
- ☐ Bag, Ziploc, asstd.
- ☐ Toilet Tissue, roll
- ☐ Towelette, hand sanitizer, pack

- ☐ Water, bottled, 0.5 L (8)

72-Hour Kit
Designed to supplement the Day Pack and 24-Hour Kit. I keep this Kit at home, but otherwise ready to go.

- ☐ Blanket, microfiber, 50" x 60"
- ☐ Lantern, LED
  - ☐ Spare Batteries, D (4)
- ☐ Sewing kit, personal
- ☐ Towel, bath

- ☐ Bag, Trash, 33 gal. (2)
- ☐ Bag, Ziploc, asstd.

Food and Water:
- ☐ Meal, Ready-to-Eat (6)
  - ☐ Heater, catalytic, MRE (6)

Clothing:
- ☐ Sandals, shower
- ☐ Shirt, short sleeve, pocket-T (2)
- ☐ Shirt, short sleeve, polo (2)
- ☐ Shirt, sweat-suit, medium-weight
- ☐ Socks, athletic, cotton, white (3 pr)
- ☐ Socks, boot, wool/nylon blend (2 pr)

Personal Items:
- ☐ Comb
- ☐ Dental Floss
- ☐ Dental Picks
- ☐ Ear Plugs, disposable foam (5 pr)
- ☐ Lip Balm, Carmex
- ☐ Lotion, antiperspirant

- ☐ Batteries, AA (48)
- ☐ Batteries, AAA (16)
- ☐ Mask, dust (2)
- ☐ Rope, 1/8" nylon (100 ft)
- ☐ Toilet Tissue (2)
- ☐ Towelette, hand sanitizer, pack
- ☐ Utensils, disposable plastic (6 sets)

- ☐ Water, bottled, 0.5 L (18)

- ☐ Trousers, hiking shorts
- ☐ Trousers, rip-stop cotton (2)
- ☐ Trousers, sweat-suit, medium-weight
- ☐ Underwear (3)
- ☐ Underwear, thermal, shirt
- ☐ Underwear, thermal, trousers

- ☐ Lotion, hand sanitizer, waterless
- ☐ Lotion, sunscreen
- ☐ Medications, prescription (3 daily doses)
- ☐ Mirror, 3" x 5"
- ☐ Mouthwash
- ☐ Shampoo

- ☐ Soap, bath
- ☐ Swabs, cotton

First Aid Kit:
- ☐ Can Opener
- ☐ Clippers, nail
- ☐ Fire Starter, magnesium
- ☐ Magnifier, hand, 10-power
- ☐ Handbook, emergency
- ☐ Scissors, bandage, small
- ☐ Tweezers

- ☐ Bag, Ziploc, quart
- ☐ Bandage, butterfly closure, large (6)
- ☐ Bandage, gauze roll, 3" x 5 yd
- ☐ Bandage, liquid, first-aid, antiseptic
- ☐ Bandage, triangular
- ☐ Blade, razor, single edge
- ☐ Dressing, adhesive, 2" x 3" (5)
- ☐ Dressing, adhesive, 3" x 4" (3)
- ☐ Dressing, adhesive, finger (3)

- ☐ Toothbrush
- ☐ Toothpaste

- ☐ Dressing, adhesive, knuckle (3)
- ☐ Dressing, adhesive, strip (10)
- ☐ Dressing, eye
- ☐ Dressing, gauze pad, 3" x 4" (3)
- ☐ Dressing, gauze sponge, 4" x 4" bulk
- ☐ Gloves, examination, vinyl (2 pr)
- ☐ Matches, wind and water proof
- ☐ Moleskin, 3" x 4", (3)
- ☐ Pin, safety, asstd.
- ☐ Solution, Iodine
- ☐ Splint, wire, small
- ☐ Tablets, acid reducer, Zantac 75
- ☐ Tablets, anti-diarrheal, Imodium A-D
- ☐ Tablets, Ibuprofen 200 mg
- ☐ Tape, first aid, 1" cloth

Office Kit

This kit, carried in my vehicle, contains operational references, assorted office supplies, and a supply of forms useful for maintaining a base or portable communications station.

- ☐ Charger Stand, CD-15A (for VX-7R)
  - ☐ Cable, handheld radio external 12Vdc power, w/ PowerPole connector
  - ☐ Charger, 110Vac, NC-72B, w/ PowerPole connector
- ☐ Radio, Handheld, FRS/GMRS, Motorola T7100
  - ☐ Headset, Microphone/Earphone
  - ☐ Spare Batteries, AA (4)

- ☐ Battery Pack, emergency cell phone charger
  - ☐ Spare Batteries, AA (2)
- ☐ Clipboard, Aluminum
- ☐ Flashlight, LED
  - ☐ Spare Batteries, AAA (3)
- ☐ Manuals, VX-7R and T7100 radios

Food and Water:
- ☐ Water, Bottled, 0.5 L (2)

Information Binder:
- ☐ Emergency Reference Information, FSD-255
- ☐ FCC Licenses, Amateur Radio/GMRS (copies)
- ☐ Driver's License (copies)

- ☐ Map Book, Reno/Sparks
- ☐ Pen, highlighter, yellow
- ☐ Pen, rolling ball, blue (2)
- ☐ Pen, Sharpie marker, black (2)
- ☐ Scissors
- ☐ Stapler
  - ☐ Staples

- ☐ Envelope, 9" x 12" (2)
- ☐ Paper, stenographer's pad, 6" x 9"
- ☐ Paper, Post-It note pad, 3" x 3"
- ☐ Paper clips, asstd.
- ☐ Rubber bands, asstd.
- ☐ Tablets, Ibuprofen 200 mg
- ☐ Tape, cellophane, ½"

- ☐ ARRL/FEMA Course Certifications (copies)
- ☐ US Amateur Radio Band/HF Band Charts
- ☐ Numbered Radiograms, FSD-3

- ☐ Formal Messages, FSD-218
- ☐ Communication Procedures, FSD-220
- ☐ Radio Programming Chart

Forms:
- ☐ ICS 205—Incident Radio Communications Plan
- ☐ ICS 205-A—Communications List
- ☐ ICS 213—General Message
- ☐ ICS 216—Radio Requirements Worksheet
- ☐ ICS 217—Radio Frequency Assignment Workbook

- ☐ Washoe County ARES Frequency Chart
- ☐ Washoe County ARES Operations Manual

- ☐ ICS 309—Communications Log
- ☐ ARC 2079H—Amateur Radio Operator Intake
- ☐ Damage Assessment Report
- ☐ Net Control Sheet
- ☐ Radiogram, ARRL NTS format

Radio Kit, VHF/UHF FM Phone/Packet
Carried in my vehicle, this kit provides portable voice or packet capabilities wherever needed.

- ☐ Radio, 2m/70cm, Yaesu FT-7800R
    - ☐ DTMF microphone, MH-68
- ☐ Terminal Node Controller, KPC-3+
    - ☐ Adapter, DB9(F) to DB25(M)
    - ☐ Adapter, USB to RS-232 interface
    - ☐ Cable, 12Vdc power, w/ PowerPole connector
    - ☐ Cable, radio interface

- ☐ Antenna, 2m/70cm, 5/8-wave, Larsen NMO2/70B
- ☐ Antenna Mount, magnetic, NMO w/ 12 ft RG-58
- ☐ Cable, 12Vdc power, w/ PowerPole connectors, 6 ft
- ☐ Cable, coaxial, RG-8X, 25 ft, w/ coupler
- ☐ Cable, HT external 12Vdc power, w/ PowerPole connector

- ☐ Cable, USB extension, 6 ft
- ☐ Cable, USB to mini-USB, 3 ft *(for GPS interface)*
- ☐ Clock, battery powered, MFJ-118
    - ☐ Spare Batteries, AAA (2)
- ☐ Headphones, lightweight, Yaesu YH-77sha
    - ☐ Adapter, audio, 1/8" stereo jack to 1/8" mono plug
- ☐ Light Strip, LED, 12Vdc, WMR PWRbrite, w/ 6 ft power cable and PowerPole connector
- ☐ Manuals, for radio and equipment
- ☐ Power Distribution Panel, WMR RigRunner 4005
- ☐ Power Supply, 13.8Vdc @ 25A, Astron SS-25
    - ☐ Cable, 110Vac power

☐ Cable, 12Vdc power output, w/ PowerPole connector

Parts Kit:
☐ Cable Ties, nylon, UV-resistant, asstd.
☐ Fuses, asstd.
☐ PowerPole connectors
☐ PowerPole to OEM radio power adapter
☐ RF adapters and couplers, asstd.

Radio Kit, HF

Although the HF radio is not kept in this kit, the other items are pre-staged in a padded athletic-type bag. All I need to do is unplug the radio at home, toss it the bag, and I'm ready to operate SSB, PSK-31, or VHF/UHF voice or packet in the field.

☐ Radio, Portable, HF/2m/70cm all-mode, Yaesu FT-897D
  ☐ DTMF microphone, MH-59
  ☐ Power Supply, 110Vac, bolt-on, FP-30
  ☐ Tuner, HF antenna, bolt-on, LDG AT-897
  ☐ Cables, interconnection (CAT/Auto-Tune/Coax)

☐ Cable, 110Vac power
☐ Cable, 12Vdc power, w/ PowerPole connector

☐ Cable, CAT control, CT-62, serial to 8-pin mini-DIN plug
☐ Cable, data to sound card, 6-pin mini-DIN plug to dual 1/8" stereo plug
☐ HF Frequency/Band reference chart
☐ Manual, FT-897D quick reference

☐ Spare Fuse, 10A (2)

Computer

This is the computer I use to run Packet and PSK-31; usually kept at home.

☐ Computer, notebook, HP dv2718us, w/ Li-Ion battery
  ☐ Power Supply, 110Vac 60W, w/ power cable
  ☐ Mouse, optical, USB, w/ mouse pad

☐ Adapter, USB to RS-232 interface
☐ Cable, data/radio programming, CT-39A, serial to 6-pin mini-DIN plug

☐ Cable, data/radio programming, CT-79A, serial to 1/8" stereo plug
  ☐ Adapter, microphone, CT-91, 1/8" 4-cond. plug to 3/32" and 1/8" stereo jacks
  ☐ Adapter, audio, 3/32" plug to 1/8" jack, 3-cond.
☐ Cable, network, Ethernet Cat-5, 6 ft
☐ Cable, telephone, 6 ft
☐ Cable, USB to mini-USB
☐ Inverter, 110Vac, 350W, w/ Power-Pole connector

Tool Bag

This is my everyday electronics tool kit, which I try to keep neatly organized so that it's available for field operations.

☐ Antenna/SWR Analyzer, HF/VHF, MFJ-259B
  ☐ Spare Batteries, AA (10)
☐ SWR Wattmeter, HF/144/440, MFJ-864
  ☐ Cable, coaxial, RG-8X, 3 ft
☐ Multimeter, digital, Fluke 115
  ☐ Spare Battery, 9V
☐ Cable Stripper, coaxial, RG-8
☐ Flashlight, LED
  ☐ Spare Batteries, AAA (3)
☐ Knife, utility
  ☐ Spare Blades
☐ Knife, X-Acto #1
  ☐ Spare Blades, #11
☐ Pliers, bent needle-nose, 4"
☐ Pliers, crimping, PowerPole
☐ Pliers, crimping, wire terminal, w/ wire stripper
☐ Pliers, diagonal cutting, 4"
☐ Pliers, diagonal cutting, 7"
☐ Pliers, lineman's side-cutting, 7"
☐ Pliers, long needle-nose, 4"
☐ Pliers, needle-nose, 4"

☐ Screwdriver, mini-tip, Phillips/flat tip, set of 4
☐ Screwdriver, Phillips, #2
☐ Soldering Iron, 25W, 110Vac
☐ Soldering Iron, resistance tip, battery powered
  ☐ Tip, resistance, asstd.
  ☐ Spare Batteries, AA (4)

☐ Adhesive, cyanoacrylate
☐ Adhesive, 5-minute epoxy
☐ Cable Ties, nylon, UV-resistant, asstd.
☐ Cable Ties, Velcro
☐ Connectors, PL-259, w/ RG-58/8X adapter, asstd.
☐ Sealant, "liquid electrical tape"
☐ Solder, lead-free, 0.030"ϕ
☐ Tape, duct, heavy-duty, 1.88"
☐ Tape, electrical, PVC, 3/4"
☐ Terminals, crimp-on, PowerPole, asstd.
☐ Terminals, crimp-on, ring, asstd.
☐ Wire, #10 AWG, 2-cond. (20 ft)
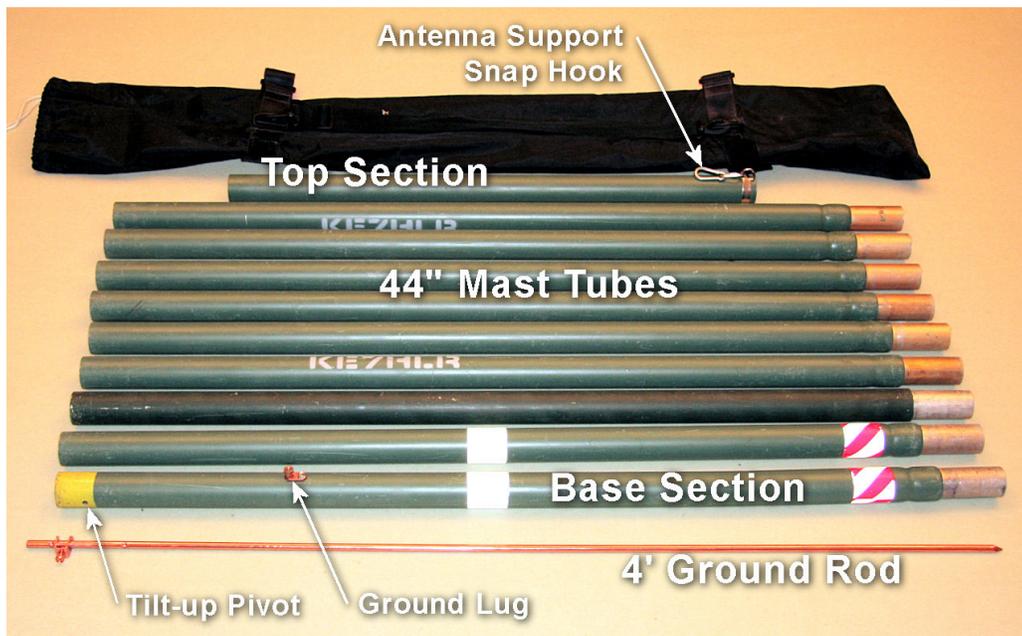☐ Wire, #16 AWG, 2-cond. (20 ft)

15-ft Antenna Mast Set
This portable mast set with tripod yoke is used for VHF/UHF communications.

- ☐ Mast, sectional, aluminum, 1.88" x 44", keyed (4)
  - ☐ Leg sections, w/ anchor eyebolts (3)
  - ☐ Leg extension, 2 ft
  - ☐ Leg extension, 1 ft
- ☐ Antenna, 2m J-pole, w/ SO-239 connector
  - ☐ Hose Clamp, adjustable (2)

- ☐ Antenna, 2m Yagi, Arrow 146-4, w/ BNC connector
  - ☐ Adapter cable, BNC to SO-239
- ☐ Stake, tripod anchor, 10" (4)
- ☐ Tripod Yoke, aluminum, for 1.88" dia. mast
- ☐ Sandbag, pre-filled (3) *(Stored separately)*

35-ft Antenna Mast Set
This portable mast set is used with the tilt-up base, guys, and wire antenna from the Setup Kit to rig an HF antenna.

- ☐ Mast, sectional, aluminum, 1.88" x 44", (9)
- ☐ Mast, top section, aluminum, 1.88" x 24"
- ☐ Ground Rod, copper, 4 ft, w/ cable clamp

Antenna Setup Kit
This kit has all the tools and parts needed to set up and guy the 30-ft antenna mast, as well as a stock of feedline.

- ☐ Antenna, 40m Inverted-V dipole, w/ SO-239 center connector and end insulators
- ☐ Antenna, 80m extension for 40m dipole, w/ alligator clips and insulators

- ☐ Base Plate, tilt-up, for 1.88" mast, w/ ground lug
  - ☐ Stake, base plate anchor, 10" (4)
- ☐ Guy Assy, Upper, w/ guy ring and (4) sets of 1/4" nylon rope x 45 ft, threaded link and Line-Grip
- ☐ Guy Assy, Lower, w/ guy ring and (4) sets of 1/4" nylon rope x 33 ft, threaded link and Line-Grip
- ☐ Guy Extender, 1/4" nylon rope x 10 ft, snap link and Line-Grip (2)
- ☐ Stake, guy anchor, 18 in, w/ eyebolt & snap link (6)

- ☐ Adapter, 110Vac, multiple-outlet
- ☐ Cable, 110Vac extension, 15A Heavy-Duty, 50 ft
- ☐ Feedline, coaxial, RG-8, w/ ferrite choke, 40 ft (2)
- ☐ Feedline, coaxial, RG-8, w/ ferrite choke, 33 ft
- ☐ Feedline, coaxial, RG-8, 33 ft, w/ coupler (3)
- ☐ Hose Clamps, adjustable (3)

- ☐ Snap links and threaded links, asstd.
- ☐ Wire, ground, #4 AWG, green, 40 ft
- ☐ Cable Ties, nylon, UV-resistant
- ☐ Rope, UV-resistant Dacron, 3/16" (100 ft)
- ☐ Tape, duct, heavy-duty, 1.88"
- ☐ Tape, safety marking, high-visibility
- ☐ Tape, electrical, PVC, 3/4"
- ☐ Towel, pre-moistened washcloth (4/pkg)

Tools:
- ☐ Gloves (2 pr)
- ☐ Hammer, 4 lb.
- ☐ Nut Driver, 5/16"
- ☐ Nut Driver, 3/8"
- ☐ Pliers, lineman's side-cutting, 9"
- ☐ Pliers, needle-nose, w/ side cutter and crimper, 6"
- ☐ Screwdriver, flat, 1/4"
- ☐ Screwdriver, Phillips, #1
- ☐ Screwdriver, Phillips, #2
- ☐ Wrench, adjustable, 8"

Emergency Power Equipment
This equipment is not normally cached, and must be gathered as needed

- ☐ Battery, 12V, 105 AH, deep cycle
  - ☐ Pigtail, equipment power, w/ 30A PowerPole connector
  - ☐ Pigtail, battery paralleling, #4 AWG, w/ 175A PowerPole connector
- ☐ Battery, 12V, 60 AH, SLA, w/ built-in 1500W Inverter and cigarette lighter socket
  - ☐ Adapter, cigarette lighter plug to PowerPole connector
  - ☐ Pigtail, equipment power, w/ 30A PowerPole connector
  - ☐ Pigtail, battery paralleling, #4 AWG, w/ 175A PowerPole connector
  - ☐ Charger, multi-stage, 5A, w/ PowerPole connector

- ☐ Generator, gasoline engine, 2kW, 110Vac, Honda EU2000i
  - ☐ Chain and padlocks, for securing generator
  - ☐ Drip Tray, 18" x 24"
- ☐ Container, Gasoline, 2 gal. (2)

Gear Bag:
- ☐ Adapter, cigarette lighter socket to PowerPole connector
- ☐ Cable, 12Vdc extension, w/ PowerPole connectors, 10 ft
- ☐ Cable, 12V battery charging, w/ generator connector*)*

- ☐ Charger, multi-stage, 5A, Deltran BT-Power, w/ PowerPole connector
- ☐ Motor Oil, 10W-30, w/ squirt bottle *(for generator)*
- ☐ Spark Plug *(for generator)*
- ☐ Wrench, spark plug *(for generator)*

Additional Gear
These items are not normally cached, and must be gathered as needed.

- ☐ GPS Receiver, Garmin GPSMAP 60CSx
  - ☐ Belt clip
  - ☐ Bracket, car-mount
  - ☐ Cable, 12Vdc power
  - ☐ Spare Batteries, AA (2)

- ☐ Canopy, pop-up shade, w/ carrying bag
  - ☐ Rope, guy, 1/8" nylon, 12 ft (4)
  - ☐ Sandbag, canvas (4)
  - ☐ Stakes, leg anchor (4)
- ☐ Chair, folding, w/ carrying bag (2)
- ☐ Cooler, ice, 7-qt (2)
- ☐ Cooler, ice, wheeled, 60-qt. (2)
- ☐ Heater, propane, portable, indoor-safe, 9000 BTU/hr, w/ carrying case
  - ☐ Adapter Hose, propane, for connecting 20-lb. cylinder, 12 ft.
  - ☐ Cylinder, propane, disposable, 1 lb. (12)
  - ☐ Cylinder, propane, 20-lb.

- ☐ Knife, 3.75" folding lock blade, Buck 110FG, w/ sheath
- ☐ Lantern, florescent
  - ☐ Spare Batteries, D (4)
- ☐ Lantern, propane
  - ☐ Cylinder, propane, disposable, 1 lb. (12)
  - ☐ Lighter, butane
  - ☐ Mantle, replacement (2)
- ☐ Mattress, self-inflating, Therm-a-Rest
- ☐ Pillow, w/ pillowcase
- ☐ Shovel, round nose
- ☐ Sleeping Bag, mummy
- ☐ Table, folding, 24" x 48"

- ☐ Medical Equipment

Seasonal Clothing:
- ☐ Balaclava, fleece, gore-tex, black
- ☐ Coat, parka, Gore-Tex
- ☐ Footwear, boots

- ☐ Gloves, pile, wind proof, black
- ☐ Sweater, pullover, fleece

In-Vehicle Equipment

Vehicle Storage Compartments:
- ☐ Cable, 12Vdc extension, w/ lighter plug *(right-rear)*
- ☐ Cable, cellular telephone 12Vdc power *(glove compartment)*
- ☐ Compressor, tire inflator, 12Vdc *(right-rear)*
- ☐ Fire Extinguisher, dry chemical, A-B-C *(rear)*
- ☐ Flashlight, LED, aluminum, 3-cell *(driver)*
  - ☐ Spare Batteries, 123A (3)
- ☐ Jack, w/ crank handle *(left-rear)*
- ☐ Tie-downs, Elastic "Bungie", asstd. *(left-rear)*

- ☐ Wrench, tire lug, folding *(left-rear)*
- ☐ Lotion, hand cleaner, waterless *(glove compartment)*
- ☐ Lotion, sunscreen *(back of driver seat)*
- ☐ Oil, Motor, Mobil 1 synthetic 10w-30, 1 qt. *(right-rear)*
- ☐ Rope, 1/8" Nylon (50 ft) *(right-rear)*
- ☐ Toilet Paper, 3 rolls *(right-rear)*

Trunk Bag:
- ☐ Blanket, nylon, fleece-lined, 48" x 56"
- ☐ Cable, automotive jumper
- ☐ Gloves

- ☐ Bag, Trash, 33 gal. (4)
- ☐ Bag, Ziploc, asstd.
- ☐ Lamp and Fuse Kit

- ☐ Light stick, chemical (4)
- ☐ Rope, nylon, 3/8" (75 ft)
- ☐ Tape, duct, heavy-duty, 1.88"
- ☐ Toilet Tissue (4)
- ☐ Towels, paper

First Aid Kit (kept in Trunk Bag):
- ☐ Manual, first aid
- ☐ Mirror, steel, 3" x 5"
- ☐ Scissors, bandage
- ☐ Tweezers

- ☐ Bandage, butterfly closure, large (4)
- ☐ Bandage, elastic, 3"
- ☐ Bandage, gauze roll, 2" x 5 yd
- ☐ Bandage, gauze roll, 3" x 5 yd
- ☐ Bandage, gauze roll, 4.5" x 4 yd
- ☐ Bandage, liquid, first-aid, antiseptic
- ☐ Bandage, triangular
- ☐ Blade, razor, single edge (8)
- ☐ Blanket, thermal mylar, 56" x 84"
- ☐ Cup, paper (2)
- ☐ Dressing, adhesive, ¾" strip (10)
- ☐ Dressing, adhesive, antibiotic, ¾" strip (10)
- ☐ Dressing, adhesive, 1" strip (10)
- ☐ Dressing, adhesive, 2" x 3" (8)
- ☐ Dressing, adhesive, 3" x 4" (4)
- ☐ Dressing, adhesive, finger (5)

- ☐ Dressing, adhesive, knuckle (5)
- ☐ Dressing, eye pad (2)
- ☐ Dressing, gauze combine, 8" x 10"
- ☐ Dressing, gauze field, 16" x 29"
- ☐ Dressing, gauze sponge, 4" x 4" (4)
- ☐ Dressing, gauze sponge, non-stick, 3" x 4" (5)
- ☐ Gloves, examination (2 pr)
- ☐ Lip Balm, Carmex
- ☐ Lotion, hand sanitizer, waterless
- ☐ Lotion, sunscreen, SPF-30
- ☐ Mask, face, gauze
- ☐ Matches, wind and water proof
- ☐ Moleskin, 3" x 4" (3)
- ☐ Solution, iodine
- ☐ Splint, wire, small
- ☐ Tablets, acid reducer, Zantac 75
- ☐ Tablets, anti-diarrheal, Imodium A-D
- ☐ Tablets, ibuprofen, 200 mg
- ☐ Tape, first aid, 1" cloth

Tool Kit (kept in Trunk Bag):
- ☐ Awl, 4"
- ☐ Brush, battery terminal
- ☐ Cutter, diagonal, 7"
- ☐ Knife, utility
  - ☐ Spare Blades
- ☐ Knife, X-Acto #1
  - ☐ Spare Blades, #11
- ☐ Pliers, adjustable-joint, 7"
- ☐ Pliers, adjustable-joint, 9"
- ☐ Pliers, needle-nose, w/ side cutter, 6"
- ☐ Screwdriver, #0 Phillips
- ☐ Screwdriver, #2 Phillips

- ☐ Screwdriver, 1/4" flat
- ☐ Screwdriver, 1/8" flat
- ☐ Socket set, metric, w/
  - ☐ Ratchet, 3/8" drive
  - ☐ Adapter, 3/8" to 1/4"
  - ☐ Universal Joint, 3/8" drive
  - ☐ Extension, 3", 3/8" drive
- ☐ Wrench, adjustable, 10" (2)

- ☐ Adhesive, thread-locking
- ☐ Cable Ties, nylon, UV-resistant, asstd.
- ☐ Tape, electrical, PVC, 3/4"

Evacuation Kit (kept in Trunk Bag):
- □ Candle, emergency (3)
- □ Cards, playing
- □ Cup, steel, canteen
- □ Filter/Pump, water purification, Katadyn *HIKER*
  - □ Tablets, water purification, Katadyn Micropur (30)
- □ Flashlight, LED, w/ lantern wand
  - □ Spare Batteries, N (4)
- □ Knife, 3" blade, w/ sheath
- □ Manual, first aid
- □ Matches, wind-and-waterproof
- □ Money, $20 cash in $5's and $10's
- □ Paper, journal notebook
- □ Pen, highlighter, yellow
- □ Pen, rolling ball, blue

- □ Pet Supplies:
  - □ Dish, pet food and water
  - □ Litter Tray, 12" x 18"
    - □ Liner, litter tray, disposable (2)
    - □ Scoop
    - □ Litter, pre-measured bags (2)
- □ Receiver, AM/FM, battery-operated
  - □ Spare Batteries, AA Lithium (2)
- □ Saw, hand, wire blade
- □ Shirt, short sleeve (2)
- □ Shirt, sweat-suit, medium-weight
- □ Socks, cotton (3 pr)
- □ Trousers, denim (2 pr)
- □ Underwear (2 pr)

Conclusion

As an Emergency Communicator, you perform a valuable service to the community, especially in times of natural or man-made disasters.

To perform your duties effectively, you must be prepared to assist in any of a number of assignments, from a variety of station locations, using various communication modes, for possibly an extended length of time. You must be prepared to provide your own equipment, and you must be prepared to tend to your own safety, welfare and comfort.

This goal of this presentation was to get you thinking about your own Go-Kit—why you need one, what items you should put in it, and how you should divide and package it for optimum utility and ease of transportation.

I hope I have met this goal, and have given you some suggestions and ideas for items to include in your own kit.

Sources for Further Information

There are numerous sources available with information on "Go Kit" contents. Some of the notable ones I have relied upon include:

- Colter, Dave, ed. *The ARRL Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Course, Level I*, 3rd Ed. Newington: American Radio Relay League, 2005.

- Ewald, Steve, ed. *ARES Field Resources Manual*. Newington: American Radio Relay League, 2005. *A PDF version is available online at*: http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/aresman.pdf.

- Green County [OH] ARES. "Jump-Kits." Website: http://gcares.febo.com/jumpkit.htm.

- Greenwood, Gregory. "Suggested Items for Radio Operators During Emergencies." Website: http://members.aol.com/greg6fzh/elist.htm

- Guilford County [NC] ARES. "ARES GO-KIT Suggestions." Website: http://www.guilfordares.org/ares_go_kit.pdf

- King County [WA] ARES/RACES. "ARES/RACES Recommended Personal Equipment Checklist." Website: http://www.aresofkingcounty.org/deploy.php

- Tulsa County [OK] ARES. "Amateur Radio Emergency Service Call Out Kits." Website: http://www.tulsahamradio.org/ARES/ares_call_out_kit.htm

- Washington County [WA] ARES/RACES. "Ideas for Your 'Ready Kit.'" Website: http://www.washcoares.org/readykit.html

- Woll, Marty. "Assembling Your Go Kit." Los Angeles Section ARES. Website: http://www.areslax.org/index.php?page=go-kit

Equipment Sources

Here's where I got some of the harder-to-find items on my list:

- **Sectional Aluminum Mast** (Military Surplus): The Mast Company (Henry Pollock, K4TMC): http://www.tmastco.com/ *(Twin City Surplus on 4th Street in Reno, also has a selection of these out in their back lot.)*

- **Tripod Yoke:** Barans Military Surplus & Radio (eBay Store): http://stores.ebay.com/BARANS-MILITARY-SURPLUS-AND-RADIO

- **Guy Rope Grips:** (Buckmaster Line-Grip): http://hamcall.net/linegrip.htm

- **4-ft Ground Rod:** Radio Shack. Part # 15-530.

- **Battery w/ 1500W Inverter:** (XPower Powerpack 1500): Xantrex: http://www.xantrex.com/web/id/63/p/1/pt/10/product.asp

- **MRE's and MRE Heaters:** Meyer's Custom Supply: http://www.meyerscustomsupply.com