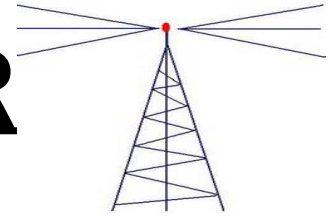


OFF THE AIR

Please visit us online at: www.GrantARC.com



“Off The Air”

Is the official publication of the
Grant County Amateur Radio Club

Special Edition

This Special Edition of the newsletter OFF THE AIR is on being prepared. We will deal with what you will need for a Go-Kit or Jump-Kit. If a diaster were to hit your area, would you be ready to react and provide Emergency Communications if needed?

We will be giving you ideas on what to put in these Go-Kits. Understand that the suggestions in this edition is just the basic equipment and supplies that would be used by you – the radio operator. Your kit should be personalized according to your needs and the equipment you have.

Without a jump kit, you will almost certainly leave something important at home, or bring items that will not do the job. Gathering and packing your equipment at the last moment also wastes precious time. It is important to think through each probable deployment ahead of time, and the range of situations you might encounter. Here are a few basic questions you will need to answer:

- Which networks will you need to join, and which equipment will you need to do so?
- Will you need to be able to relocate quickly, or can you bring a ton of gear?
- Will you be on foot, or near your vehicle?
- Is your assignment at a fixed location or will you be mobile?
- How long might you be deployed – less than 48 hours, up to 72 hours, or even a week or more?
- Will you be in a building with reliable power and working toilets, or in a tent away from civilization?
- What sort of weather or other conditions might be encountered?
- Where will food and water come from? Are sanitary facilities available?
- Will there be a place to sleep?
- Do you need to plan for a wide variety of possible scenarios, or only a few?
- Can some items do “double duty” to save space and weight?

Basic Deployment Equipment Checklist

When responding to an emergency event, or even a training exercise, there is a minimum set of equipment and personal gear you should bring with you to get the job done. Basic items include:

- 2-meter hand-held (a dual band hand-held would be better)
- 2-meter/70cm dual band mag-mount antenna and coax
- Earphone or Microphone Headset
- Paper and several pencils or pens
- ARES ID Card
- Extra batteries for hand-held radio
- Appropriate clothing
- Food and water (things that you like to snack on)

The majority of these items should be kept in a “Ready Kit.” Just pick it up on your way out the door for deployment. You might also consider the items on the following list for inclusion in this ready kit, designed to allow you to stay in the field for up to 72 hours.

Extended Deployment (72 hour) Equipment Checklist

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3 day chage of clothes | <input type="checkbox"/> Power supplies, chargers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Foul weather gear | <input type="checkbox"/> Microphones |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Toilet articles | <input type="checkbox"/> Headphones |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Shelter (tent and sleeping bag) | <input type="checkbox"/> Patch cords |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Portable stove:
mess kit with cleaning kit | <input type="checkbox"/> Antennas with mounts |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Waterproof matches | <input type="checkbox"/> SWR bridge (VHF and HF) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Flashlight | <input type="checkbox"/> Extra coax |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Candles | <input type="checkbox"/> RF connectors and adapters |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Alarm Clock | <input type="checkbox"/> Power, audio and other connectors and
adapters |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3 day supply of water and food | <input type="checkbox"/> Batteries |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Snacks | <input type="checkbox"/> Toolbox |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Liquid refreshments | <input type="checkbox"/> Soldering iron and solder |
| <input type="checkbox"/> First aid kit * | <input type="checkbox"/> VOM |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Throat lozenges / hard candy
(something to keep throat moist) | <input type="checkbox"/> Electrical and duct tape |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prescriptions | <input type="checkbox"/> Safety glasses |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aspirin or other pain reliever | <input type="checkbox"/> Log books |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Additional radios, packet gear | <input type="checkbox"/> Message forms |

* First aid kit recommondations from Red Cross:
www.redcross.org/prepare/location/home-family/get-kit/anatomy

About Your Ready Kit

Power – Your 72 -hour kit should have several sources of power in it, with extra battery packs and an alkaline battery pack for your handheld. For mobile VHF and UHF radios, larger batteries are needed. Gel-cell or deep-cycle marine batteries are good sources of battery power, and you must keep them charged and ready to go. It is also wise to have alternate means available to charge your batteries during the emergency. You can charge smaller batteries from other larger batteries. You can build a solar charging device. If you're lucky, you may have access to a power generator that can be used in place of the normal electrical lines. Have more battery capacity than you think you might need. Have several methods available to connect your radios to different power sources.

Gain Antennas – You can expect to need some kind of gain antenna for your handheld, as well as an additional gain antenna that can be used on either your handheld or your mobile rig. The extra antenna might be needed by someone else, or your first antenna might break. For VHF and UHF, you can build a J-Pole from TV twinlead for an inexpensive and very compact antenna. Have several lengths of coax in your kit, totaling at least 50 feet, and barrel connectors to connect them together.

Personal – Include staples: water, or a reliable water filtration and purification system; enough food for three days; eating utensils, a drinking cup and, if needed, a means of cooking your food. Shelter is also important. Here, you are only limited by the size of your kit and the thickness of your wallet. Some hams plan to use their RV's as shelter, conditions permitting. Other disaster conditions may make the use of an RV impossible, so you should have several different plans for shelter. Light is important psychologically during an emergency. Make sure that you have several light sources available. Various battery-powered lights are available, and lanterns that use propane or other fuels are also good possibilities.

For more information and ideas on Go-Kits or Jump-Kits visit the following websites.

<http://www.duvalares.org/Reference/go-bag2.pdf>
<http://races.org/gokit.htm#everyday>
<http://www.harc.net/programs/amateur-radio-go-kit.pdf>
http://www.n4gvk.net/guilares/ares_go_kit.pdf
<http://gcares.febo.com/jumpkit.pdf>
<http://ksarrl.org/ares/gokit.php#primary>
<http://gcares.febo.com/jumpkit.htm>
<http://www2.stetson.edu/~kmccoy/jumpkit.html>
http://www.gwinnettares.org/Plans/ares_log_3_2.pdf

I hope this information will be helpful and as Amateur Radio Operators we are all prepared in case the call ever arises that we are needed in case of an emergency.

NOTE: All information in this article was taken from the ARRL Field Resources Manual and the websites listed above.