Emergency Communications Go Kits

Amateur Radio Emergency Service

Established in 1935

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ARRL The national association for **AMATEUR RADIO**

Good Communication and Situational Awareness

Introduction

- This presentation is intended to get you thinking about your Go Kit.

- Why you need one.

- What items you should put in it.

- How you should divide it up for ease of transportation and for optimum utility.

- By giving you a view of some examples of Go Kits, I hope to offer some suggestions for items you can include in your own kit.

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Introduction

- Priorities
- Mission as Emergency Communicators
- Preparation
- Go Bags / Go Kits / Go Boxes / Jump Kits
- Peripheral supplies
- Building your own kits
- Maintaining preparedness

Operational Priorities

- 1. INSURE TCARES VOLUNTEER SAFETY
- 2. Protect life and property
- **3. Provide effective and efficient emergency communications resources**
- 4. Collect and quickly disseminate accurate situational awareness to assist decision making by emergency managers and served agencies
- **5. Support rapid and effective emergency response**
- **6. Support mass care and temporary sheltering efforts**
- 7. Support transition from response to recovery
- 8. Coordinate media inquiries through the ARES Public Information Officer
- 9. Provide accurate tracking and reporting of ARES volunteer activities

ARES Mission

- Provides supplemental, backup communications to public service and disaster relief agencies when *normal means of communications are overloaded or unavailable*

- We always train and are always prepared
  - Nets , Exercises, ICS courses

- How prepared are we?

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Preparation

- Situational Awareness – What's going on in the world?
- Building your Go Kit
- Scale of event - Mobile / Portable / Base
- Adaptability
- Best practices - *You must be **adequately prepared** to handle your assignment, so that you can keep focused on the job at hand.*
- Maintaining operational capabilities
- Redundancy
- Maintaining health and safety

Preparation

- Having you Go Kit assemble ahead of time will help you be prepared when the call-out comes.

- Plan you Go Kit to meet the situations that you might encounter

- Assignments –
    - Base Station/ Field Post at IC Site/ EOC/ Hospital / Mobile / At Home

Go Bag

What is an EmComm Go Bag

- Field-Expedient Communications Kit.

- Includes communication device and supplies to support *portable operations.*

- Basic items should include radios, operating manuals, power supply, antennas and other resources to operate independently and efficiently at a moments notice.

Go Bag Basics

- Dual Band Transceiver – Operating Manual
- Radio Scanner / WX Radio- Operating Manual
- Power Supply / Batteries
- Backup Antenna
- Earbuds / Headphones
- Light Source / Flashlight
- Copy of FCC License
- ARES ID
- Pen / Pencil / Sharpie Marker / Notepad
- Multi-tool
- Repeater Frequency List
- Emergency Contact Information
- USB Drive – ICS FORMS / Procedures, Etc.

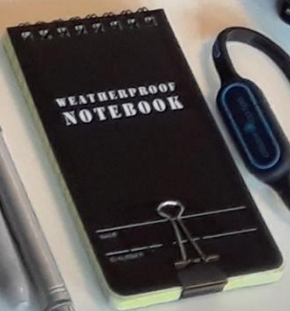**ARRL** *The national association for* **AMATEUR RADIO**
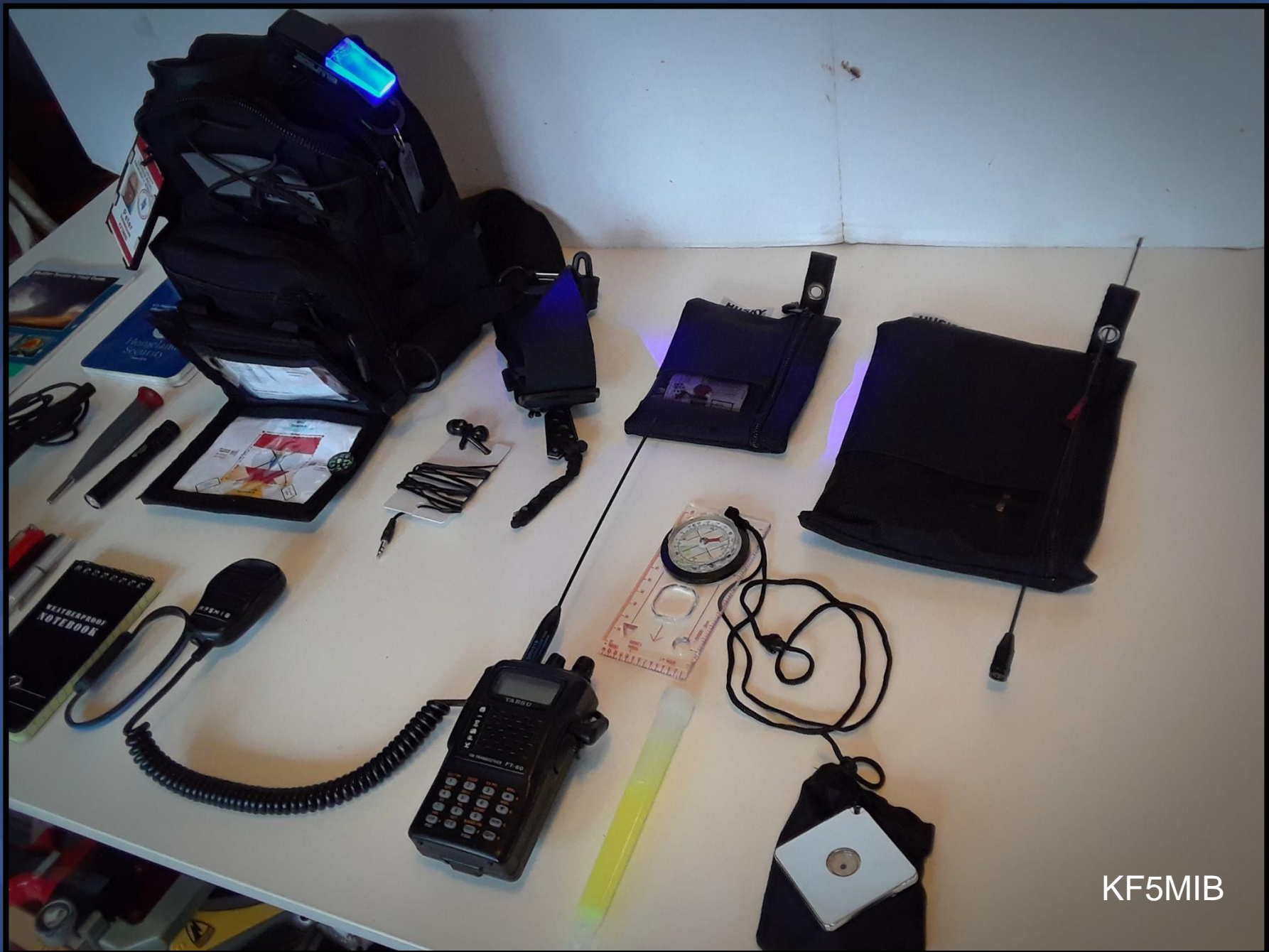
Other Important Items

- Medications / Prescriptions
- First Aid Kit
- Compass
- Fire Source
- High Protein Snacks
- Whistle
- Signaling Mirror
- NWS SKYWARN Spotter Field Guide
- National Interoperability Field Operation Guide (NIFOG)
- Auxiliary Communications Field Operation Guide (AUXFOG)

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Go Box

Red Cross Sound the Alarm Net Control 2017

What is a Go Box ?

- Pre-staged collection of **equipment** and **personal gear** that you need to perform your duties as an Emergency Communicator.

- Includes communication devices and supplies to support *mobile or base operations for extended periods*.

- Should be **tailored** to <u>your</u> **needs**, your **equipment**, expected **assignments**, and expected **length** of assignments.

- **Power for extended periods.**

Coaxial Cable

Case mounted Antenna

Go Box (Made from an old guitar amp)

Rolling Tool Box

At home or for shelter work

Battery / Power Supply

Extension Cord

Portable Mast
with affixed antenna

Red Cross Sound the Alarm Net Control
2017

Go Boxes

Kenwood TRIM-751A
Astron Power Supply
Ladderline antenna
Yaesu VX-6 HT
Magmount antenna with
steel cookie sheet
AUXCOMM Field Manual
National Interoperability
FOG
Texas Interoperability FOG
ARES Field Manual

Kerby, KG5DLD

Go Box Protection from EMP

Faraday Cage

KG5DLD

Go Boxes

Icom 7100
SCS 7400
LDG IT-100 tuner
Intel Compute Stick 32GB, 2GB
DDR3 WiFi/Bluetooth/32 GB SD
card

Runs:
Winlink Packet, Pactor, Winmor,
ARDOP, VARA
Fldigi suite
MS-110A

Configurable to an RMS
Gateway with RMS Packet,
Relay and Trimode.

John, W5RZG

W5RZG

Other Go Box Basics

- Citizen Band Radio
- Net Control Script / Repeater Frequency List
- Clock
- First Aid Kit
- Desk Light or Lantern
- Paracord / Stakes
- Water / Food
- Change of Clothes
- Laptop Computer / USB Drive – ICS FORMS / Procedures, Etc.
- Winlink Software
- Weather App on Cellphone

Scale, Duration and Season

- Every Day Carry Pack
- 24 Hour Kit
- 72 Hour Kit
- Power
  - Extra Batteries
  - Generator
- Weather and Climate Conditions

In Conclusion

- As an Emergency Communicator, you perform a valuable service to the community.

- To perform your duties effectively, you must be prepared to assist in any of a number of assignments, from a variety of locations, using various modes, for possibly an extended length of time.

- You must be prepared to provide your own equipment, and you are responsible for your own safety, welfare and comfort.

Goals for 2019

Building your own Go Bag / Box

Keep your First Aid Kits fresh

Keep STX ARES Information Depot updated

Get Winlink capable !

ICS – 100, 200, 700 and 800

Exercises and Community Event Support

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Thank you !

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