

## LOGISTICS

# Go-Kits

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## 1 Purpose

This document describes what a go-kit is and the equipment and supplies that should be contained in a go-kit.

## 2 Scope

This alerting and activation procedure applies to requests and potential requests from served agencies for emergency communications services from Monroe County Amateur Radio Emergency Service (MC ARES) members. This procedure also applies to drills and other special events.

## 3 Go-Kits

A go-kit is a collection of radio equipment and supplies that are generally kept in a bag, pouch, tote or other container that is always kept ready for immediate deployment. The contents of the go-kit should allow you to be self-sufficient and sustain a day of continuous operation and be easily supplemented for overnight or longer assignments. The trunk of your car is the best place to store emergency gear because it is dry, relatively secure and is accessible either at home or away. Three levels of kits are recommended-

- An "everyday" kit that accompanies your HT and is small enough to fit in a briefcase.
- A larger "backup" bag stashed in your car that provides 24 hours of auxiliary power, extra equipment and accessories for extended operating.
- A "disaster " bag with emergency cash, food, water, rain gear, a larger gel cell battery, clothing and shelter to sustain a 3-day activation or evacuation.

The bare essentials are a 2-meter or dual-band HT, some sort of "gain" antenna, auxiliary power source, writing materials, comfort and safety items.

### 3.1 Everyday Kit

- VHF Handheld radio (Dual-band if possible).
- Copy of current FCC Operating License.
- ARES/RACES/Served-agency Identification Card
- Earphone, headset or speaker mike
- Spare battery packs (NiCad, Li Ion or backup AA battery case for HT).
- Pencil, notepad (optional clip board)
- Copies of message forms
- 50 ft. coax with connectors
- Connector adapters (SO-239 to BNC to fit HT and connector for HT to gain antenna)
- Magnetic mount antenna or ground plane antenna
- Maps of local area (city and county).

- Duct tape
- Wristwatch or clock
- Multi-purpose tool
- Mini-Mag-Lite, extra bulb and spare AAs
- Reflective vest

### **3.2 Backup Bag**

- Extra gel-cell battery and power cables for radio and brick amplifier
- Second, "backup / loaner" 2-meter HT.
- Operating manuals for HT's
- Compact, rugged, 25-40w 2 meter or dual-band brick amplifier
- Spare fuses (2A, 10A, 15A) for HT cords, mobile radio or brick amplifier
- ARES Field Resource Manual
- Fused DC adapter cords with PowerPole connectors for brick amplifier and HTs
- Extra 10' AWG 10 gage twin lead extension cord, with battery clips, in-line fuses and PowerPole connectors to power brick amp or HT.

### **3.3 Disaster Bag**

- Emergency cash
- 3 day supply of Food (MRE's or other non-perishable meals. Rotate stock regularly and be sure to check expiration dates)
- Water (1 gallon of water per person/day is needed for drinking and washing).
- Rain gear
- Additional gel-cell or 12V deep cycle batteries
- Clothing for three days of operation
- Shelter
- 3 day supply of personal medication (if required)
- First aid kit
- Blanket or sleeping bag
- Spare glasses (if you wear them)
- Toilet paper and other personal hygiene items
- Large trash bags

### **3.4 Tool Kit**

- Swiss Army Knife
- Screw Driver (Phillips and flat)
- Pliers
- Side Cutter
- Crimp Tool (includes wire stripper)
- Assortment of crimp connectors, nails, brads, tacks
- Crescent Wrench
- Hammer
- Electrical Tape
- VOM
- Folding set of Allen/Torx wrenches
- Soldering Iron w/solder

- Nut Driver set

### 3.5 HF Unique

- HF rig (12V DC preferred) with:
  - Mic
  - Key
  - Head phones, ext speaker
  - Tuner - for the oddball antenna
  - 50 ft + RG58 or better
- NVIS antenna: (NOT a mobile vertical!)
  - 75m dipole w/ ladder line or 130 ft of wire or equivalent
  - Insulators
  - 3 Masts, 8ft or more, preferably non-conductive
  - Guy rope
  - Tent pegs for guys
  - Lead weight & 50 ft light line for tossing over branches
  - "Loud" marking tape to warn passers-by of guys, lines.
- Power source (one or more):
  - 12V gel cell 75 A/H w/ charger
  - Vehicle w/ 12V battery & gas

The best go-kit for you won't fit anyone's "canned" list. Assemble one which fits your routine, experience and local conditions. Here are some excellent sources for guidance on go-kits:

"What's In Your Go' Kit?" by C. Edward Harris, Fairfax (VA) ARES  
"GO KITS" Gwinnett County (Georgia) ARES  
ARRL ARES Field Resource Manual

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### 3.6 References

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"What's In Your Go' Kit?" by C. Edward Harris, Fairfax (VA) ARES  
"GO KITS" Gwinnett County (Georgia) ARES  
ARRL ARES Field Resource Manual  
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## 4 Safety

Go-kits and radio equipment may be very heavy. Remember to use proper lifting techniques or better yet, consider using a portable cart for transporting heavy items such as 12 volt batteries, power supplies and radios.

## 5 Abbreviations and Terms

ARES	Amateur Radio Emergency Service
HT	"Handy-Talkie" or handheld radio
Li Ion	Lithium Ion

MRE            "Meal, Ready to Eat"  
NiCad         Nickle Cadmium

## 6 Related Documents and Information

LOG 4-2        Go-kit

"What's In Your Go' Kit?" by C. Edward Harris, Fairfax (VA) ARES

"GO KITS" Gwinnett County (Georgia) ARES

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## Revision History

REV	DATE	DESCRIPTION	AUTHOR - CALL
0	9 Sept 2007	Initial publication.	Emergency Plan Team