

# Prepare For Deployment By KI5UAJ

Being prepared for an emergency communications deployment involves a wide range of considerations including radio equipment, clothing and personal gear, food and water, medical kit, bedding, information, tools and specialized training documents.

Catastrophic incidents such as tornados, hurricanes, flooding, ice storms, civil unrest with rioting and looting can cause a grid lockdown for days or weeks. No two deployments during these times are the same but your basic necessities remain the same- its the details that change with circumstances.

## **Ready Kits**

The last thing you want to do when a call for assistance comes is think of and pack all the items you might need. An experienced emergency responder knows how important it is to keep a kit of the items they need ready to go at a moment's notice. This is often called a "ready kit" or "Go kit". Without a ready kit, you will almost certainly leave something important at home or bring items that will not do the job. Here are a few basic questions you will need to answer:

1. Which networks will you need to join and what equipment will you need to do that?
2. Will you need to be able to relocate quickly or can you bring a ton of gear?
3. Will you be on foot, or near your vehicle?
4. Is your assignment at a fixed location or will you be mobile?
5. How long might you be deployed – less than 48 hours?, up to 72 hours? even a week or more?
6. Will you be in a building with reliable power and working toilets or in a tent away from civilization?
7. What sort of weather or other conditions might be encountered?
8. Where will food and water come from? Are sanitary facilities available?
9. Will there be a place to sleep?
10. Do you need to plan for a wide variety of possible scenarios or only a few?

Most people seem to divide ready kits into two categories: one for deployments under 48 hours and one for up to 72 hours. For deployments longer than 72 hours, many people will just add more of the consumable items that they will use up, such as clothing, gasoline, food, water and batteries. Others may add a greater range of communication options and backup equipment as well.

You might want to keep a list with your “ready kit” of items in general, call this your base list and then a list that has a short shelf life that you would not want to have packed at all times or would want to rotate out periodically. You might want prescriptions, batteries and other items not pre-packed but have them on a list as a reminder of items to be added will help to keep from forgetting them at the last minute.

#### Ready Kit Idea List:

1. Something to put it in — one or more backpacks, suitcases, plastic storage tubs, etc.
2. Package individual items in zip lock bags or plastic containers
3. You may consider labeling your equipment with your name, call sign, etc.

#### Radios and Accessories:

1. Handheld VHF or dual-band radio
2. Spare rechargeable batteries for handhelds
3. Alkaline battery pack for handhelds
4. Alkaline batteries
5. Speaker mic and earphone for handhelds
6. Battery chargers, AC and DC for handhelds
7. Mobile VHF or dual-band radio
8. HF radio
9. Multi-band HF antenna, tuner, heavy parachute cord
10. Gain antennas and adapters (roll-up J-Pole, mobile magnetic mount, etc)
11. Coaxial feed lines, jumpers
12. Ground rod, pipe clamp, and wire

13. AC power supplies for VHF/UHF mobile and HF radios, accessories
14. Large battery source for VHF/UHF mobile and HF radios, with charger
15. All related power, data, audio, and RF cables and adapters
16. Small repair kit: hand tools, multi-meter, connectors, adapters, fuses, key parts
17. Materials for improvisation: wire, connectors, small parts, insulators, duct tape, etc.
18. Photocopies of manuals for all equipment
19. Headphones, for noisy areas and privacy
20. Solar panel and charging equipment for 12v batteries as alternate power sources or cell phones if that infrastructure is still intact
  
21. Portable generator and fuel

A topic for consideration at another time should be scene security, not only that of the equipment we use as our own, transportation and personal level safety as well. These can be as basic as an hourly check in from a deployed station to a more security conscious protocol.

This is a short list and isn't broken down into short term versus long term deployments. Taking time now to plan, pack will pay dividends when the call for help comes in.

That concludes tonight's training.

Thanks, this is KI5UAJ returning to net control.