

ERC-East / Thoughts For & About The Well Prepared EmComm Operator

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Before The Emergency / Disaster:

- Be mentally, temporally & spiritually prepared - it's the little things, like always keeping your car gas tank at least half full. **Think EmMgmt / EmComm 24/7!!**
- Collect and perfect your personal and radio 72 hour kit.
- Check and rotate your 72 hour kits each General Conference weekend.
- Make multiple photocopies of your equipment manuals, read them, use them and store them with your radios.
- Learn, and then use your equipment to its fullest capabilities.
- Practice, Practice, Practice your radio-operator skills, message handling to include both formal (ARRL Radiogram formatted messages) and informal messages, NCS, map reading and propagation prediction skills.
- Take part in as many nets as possible.
- Practice the ABC's of EmComm, **Accuracy, Brevity, Clarity**.
- Complete as much EmComm training as possible to hone your skills.
- If called upon, be prepared to deploy into the field.
- Check your multiple power sources monthly. Standardize the types of batteries you use, such as AA / D cells to minimize the number of batteries you need.

During The Emergency / Disaster:

- Take care of your family!! It's Your # 1 Priority!!
- Employ the ABC's of EmComm, Accuracy, Brevity, Clarity
- Using whatever means available, landline, cellphone, two-way pagers, e-mail, fax, satellite phone, Amateur Radio, CB, GMRS, FRS, MURS, foot or bicycle courier to send the message - "Move The Message Forward."
- Practice patience, charity and humility.
- Allow others to make mistakes, never tolerate them in yourself.
- Be a team player, be flexible.
- Be aware of your capabilities, don't over extend yourself.
- Use the best antenna you can afford and mount it as high as you reasonably can.
- If possible use a scanner to monitor activity.
- Remember, you are emergency communicator, not an emergency rescue person.
- Carefully manage your power resources.

After The Emergency / Disaster

- Complete a written review of what went right, what needs improvement and what needs to be overhauled, then Do It!!
- Don't become complacent, stay involved!! As an operator, your training is almost complete when you can train another person to be a trainer.