



COMMUNICATION ASSIGNMENTS – GENERAL INFORMATION

Communication assignments might include shelter radio operator to handle calls for information, supplies, and personnel, "shadowing" an official to be their communication link, gathering weather information, or collecting and transmitting damage reports. Some nets might pass health and welfare inquiries to refugee centers, or pass messages from refugees to family members outside the disaster area. Other nets might handle logistical needs for the served agency, such as those regarding supplies, equipment, and personnel.

In general, you should be prepared to perform jobs for a served agency that include the need to communicate. Here are a few of the many possible job descriptions:

Radio operator, using Amateur or served agency radio systems.

Scribe or Logger, Assisting the radio operator in recording and logging traffic.

Message Runner, Walking messages to and from the radio operator.

Net Control Station, (NCS), handles flow of message traffic, people, equipment & supplies.

Area Control Station, (ACS) coordinates a geographic area on simplex & reports to a NCS

Resource coordinator, organizing the assignments of disaster relief volunteers.

Ham Watch Station, Sheltered-In-Place and reporting weather or other conditions in your neighborhood. Even if you're mobile you can report conditions where you are.

Damage assessor, evaluating and reporting damage conditions.

Van driver, moving people or supplies from location to location.

Searcher, provide communication for a search and rescue team.

Shadowing, accompany key personnel so communication can be maintained with them.

To perform these jobs, you may need to complete task-specific training courses, and take part in exercises and drills in addition to those required for emergency communication beyond traditional Amateur Radio. In the ever-changing

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world of emergency response, this flexibility will become increasingly important if we are to continue our contribution to public safety as Amateur Radio operators.

Nets will be set up, re-arranged, and dismantled as needs change. Volunteers will need to remain flexible in order to meet the changing needs of the served agency. Over time, the need for emergency communication networks will diminish and some nets will be closed or reduced in size. Operators will be released to go home one by one, in small groups, or all at once as the needs dictate.