

KARES KNW 144 PREPARE FOR DEPLOYMENT

Kanawha County ARES training material modified by WB8YST

Being prepared for an emergency communication deployment involves a wide range of considerations, including radio equipment, clothing and personal gear, food and water, information, and specialized training.

The Water Crisis is a good example of a situation where the needs upon arrival were very different for each person, and preplanning is a necessity in these situations. This incident is very different in relation to a situation such as the response to the flooding in the Clendenin area a couple years ago. No two deployments are the same but your basic necessities remain the same.

Go 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 should know 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 "go kit", "ready kit", or "jump kit". Without a go 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:

- Which networks will you need to join, and what equipment will you need to do so?
- Will you need to be able to relocate quickly, or can you bring your trunk / trailer full of gear?
- Will you be on foot, or near your vehicle?
- Is your assignment at a fixed location or will you be mobile?
- How long might you be deployed - less than 48 hours, up to 72 hours, or even a week or more?
- Will you be in a building with reliable power and working toilets, or in a tent away from civilization?
- What sort of weather or other conditions might be encountered?
- Where will food and water come from? Are sanitary facilities available?
- Will there be a place to sleep?
- 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 items that they will use up, such as clothing, 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 that have a short shelf life that you would not want to have packed at all times. You might want prescriptions, batteries, and other