

## Mecklenburg County ARES®

### ARES Go Kit

If you receive an ARES deployment call the person calling you will give you details regarding:

The Type of Disaster

The Duration Expected

The Emergency Net Frequency, the Backup Frequency and any additional frequencies.

Who you will report to at the scene, including their agency name and position.

Expected safe routes into the disaster area

In previous discussions we have covered First Aid Kits and 72 Hour Emergency Kits. In addition to those two kits you will need an ARES Go Kit also known as an Emergency Communications Kit.

The suggested items for your ARES Go Kit should be:

- An HT which is appropriate for the Primary Secondary Emergency frequencies that will be used - a 2 meter HT will suffice in most circumstances. ( I bring a dual band HT )
- Enough batteries for your HT to last at least one full day. (I will bring three high capacity HT battery packs)
- Battery charger for your HT (I will bring both an AC charger and a car charger)
- A roll up J-pole, Slim Jim will greatly increase your HT's effective range ( I carry an N9TAX rollup 2m/440 Slim Jim)
- Alternately a 2 meter Mobile radio or a dual band radio with an adequate power supply or battery capacity for one day)
- 2m / 70cm mag mount antenna (can be installed on any metallic surface)
- Alternately a Yagi or other directional antenna . (I carry an Elk 5 element Log Periodic and a 8', 1" PVC mast that will attach to my truck bed)

- Extra Coax (I carry 60 feet of RG8X)
- Ear Phones or Hand Microphone
- Cell Phone and Charger
- Lots of Paper and Pencil / Pens
- Official ID with Photograph such as an NC Driver's License or ID card
- Copy of your FCC License
- Any FEMA Incident Command System certificates for classes completed
- Appropriate Clothing for the season. You should bring clothing that will keep you comfortable during night the time temperatures of that season.
- Extra Food and Water
- Message forms – Primarily ICS-213 forms but bring a few ARRL
- Log Book
- Cash – in small denominations
- Map of the area (I carry a NC map and a map of Mecklenburg County)
- Folding Chair
- Electrical tape and duct tape
- 50-ft rope
- 25-ft power cords (2) (110 Vac)
- Power strip (110 Vac).
- Extra Connectors and adapters appropriate for your radios. Don't forget barrel connectors.
- A repair kit with hand tools, fuses, wires, and other small parts.

- Soldering Iron and Solder. (for replacing the connectors on your coax)
- Coax Seal

Most field operators do not have to have HF capability. That is usually taken care of by the Net Control Station.

Don't assume commercial power will be available to run your rig & charge your batteries.

If a generator power is available at the site always use a power supply to filter the electricity as voltage spikes from the generator can damage your equipment.

And always be safety conscious when traveling both to and from the disaster site. Flooding, down power lines and other hazards may be present.

Turn Around – Don't Drown

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