

ARE YOU READY?

Greg Sarratt, W4OZK
ARRL Alabama Section Manager

The 2009 Hurricane Season is here and any other natural disaster can happen anytime.

Are You Ready? Amateur Radio operators who assist on local, regional or national disasters are required to have increasing levels of training and experience.

Necessary Federal requirements are designed to keep the best workforce in the disaster area. Efficient Amateur Radio operators must consider safety and prepare, train, practice and test themselves before the event. Many hams do most of this already, so make sure you are ready.

Prepare your personal Jump Kit, equipment, manuals, provisions, money, plan, join and build your local ARES or emergency communications group and get vaccinations.

Train by taking all the ARRL, American Red Cross, The Salvation Army and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) training you can get.

Build your experience and practice at Field Day, Simulated Emergency Test, contests, nets, public service events, plan, drills and pass traffic.

Test by connecting your equipment in different configurations, learn to operate it fully, efficiently and interoperate with other amateurs.

Here are some recommended minimum requirements goals.

Training: FEMA - IS-100, IS-200, IS-700 and IS-800;
ARRL - EC-001 and EC-002; First aid and CPR;
Salvation Army - National Disaster Training;
American Red Cross - Introduction to Disaster.

Safety/vaccinations: Tetanus; Hep-A; Hep-B; TB.

Check with your doctor on these and other vaccinations necessary for you.

Experience: Nets, Exercises, Public service events.

The more we can do to prepare beforehand, the more safe, useful, resourceful and beneficial we will be during the event.