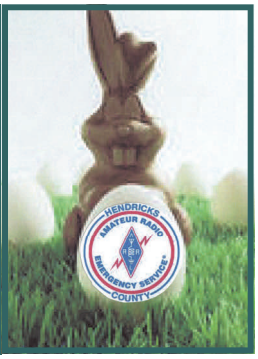
VOLUME 7 ISSUE 2 HENDRICKS COUNTY ARES

The HAM'ER

(amateur radio emergency response)

www.hendricksares.org



April–June 2018

Inside This Issue

Chief editor/publisher of The HAM'ER: Ron Burke

Front Page News :

Message from the Emergency Coordinator

Starting with this issue, there will be a couple of pages out of each future issues of The Ham'er that will deal with Emergency Preparedness.

This will be in two parts. One for being ready for when responding to an emergency event, and building "Go kits" the second part is to give you and your family ideas on how to be prepared in an emergency/disaster.

Not all emergencies/disasters are big !!!!!

73

Ron Burke KB9DJA

What generates as much power as all the electric power plants in the U.S., but can only power one light bulb for a month ?

Answer:
Lightning !
In the instant it flashes, lightning produces as much energy as every power plant in the U.S. does in that same instant. The lightning is over so fast that a single light bulb would use up all the energy in just one month !

Lightning strikes about three million times a day on earth. In addition to its electric charge, a bolt of lightning can reach a temperature of 50,000 degrees Fahrenheit. ***THAT IS HOTTER THAN THE SURFACE OF THE SUN !***

What looks like one bolt of lightning is actually many flashes, up to 20.

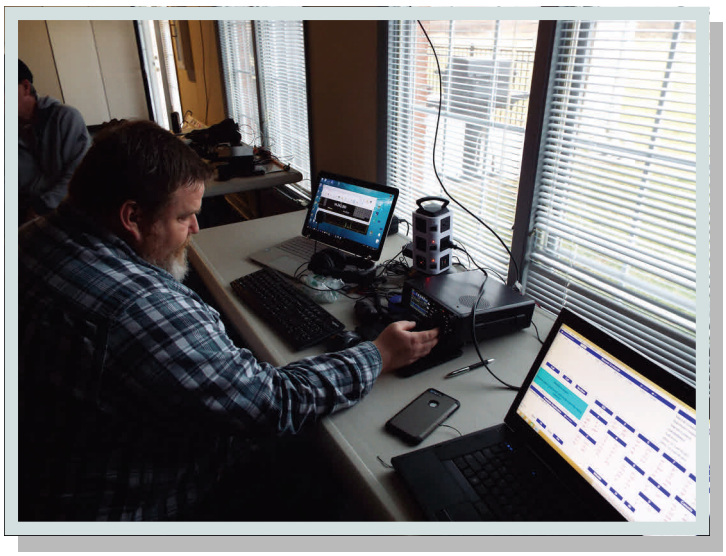
About 80 people are killed by lightning in average per year in the U.S. This makes it one of the most dangerous natural hazards.

- Every five seconds you can count between a lightning bolt and its thunder equals one mile between you and the lightning. Lightning can strike miles away from its cloud. Its best to take shelter in a building, or enclosed metal vehicle such as a car. (Not a convertible…) Stay there for at least 30 minutes after the last thunder is heard.
- If you are on water, try to find shelter nearby.
- If you have to take shelter outside, stay away from large metal objects like golf carts, golf clubs, bicycles, or metal fences. Avoid trees by themselves in open areas. If in a forest, take shelter in a clump of shorter trees. If nowhere else is available, go to a low spot and crouch down. **(DON'T LIE DOWN.)** Beware of standing water.
- If your hair stands on end, a lightning strike may be about to happen. Crouch down as low as you can. Put your hands over your ears and head between your knees. This makes you a smaller target while minimizing your contact with the ground.
- If someone has been struck by lightning, **CALL 911…** If they are not breathing or do not have a pulse administer CPR. Check for burns. **CAUTION…. Make sure they are not electrically charged before you touch the victim.**

TRUE STORY : In 2008, eight firefighters taking a break from a wildfire were struck by a single bolt of lightning. With the clear skies overhead and calm, lightning traveled from a distant storm, hit a tree, traveled down through its roots to where the firefighters were sitting. It threw each of them about ten feet in the air. They all required hospitalization but survived. **If you hear thunder roars, stay indoors !**
(This page for reference only)

FIELD DAY 2018

2018 HENDRICKS COUNTY Winter Field Day was held at the Hendricks County Senior Services Center in Danville, Indiana January 27/28. Hams from around the area participated in this 24 hour event, setting up their portable radio equipment in the harsh weather of January.
This event here was sponsored by the CTS group.



Emergency Preparedness

READY TO BE DEPLOYED

After an emergency/disaster has happened, after your family and friends are okay from the aftermath, then you would be eligible for deployment.

Even though some amateur radio stations will be already set up before you arrive, it's best to have some form of a "Go Kit" to take with you.

The same should be true of all HCARES volunteers. You never know what challenges an emergency situation will offer. You might have AC power, or just the batteries you bring along. Safe drinking water may be available, or you may have only your canteen. Sometimes you can find out in advance what sort of conditions are likely for your assignment, but many times no one will know -- particularly during the early stages of an emergency.

Being prepared for an emergency communication deployment involves a wide range of considerations, including radio equipment, power sources, clothing and personal gear, food and water, information, and specialized training. No two deployments are the same, and each region offers its own specific challenges. What is appropriate for rural Minnesota in January probably won't work for urban southern California in any season.

Our goal is to help you think about ways to be prepared for your particular situation. We cannot provide all the answers, but we can help you to ask the correct questions. Specific equipment choices are covered later.

Go Kits

The last thing you should need to do when a call for assistance comes is think of and locate all the items you might need. Any experienced emergency responder knows 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."

Without a go kit, you will almost certainly leave behind something important at home, or bring items that will not do the job. Gathering and packing your equipment at the last moment also wastes precious time. It is important to think through each probable deployment ahead of time, and the range of situations you might encounter. Here are a few basic questions you will need to answer:

> Which nets will you need to join, and which equipment will you need to do so?
> Will you need to be able to relocate quickly, or can you bring a ton 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?

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> Do you need to plan for a wide variety of possible scenarios, or only a few?
> Can some items do "double duty" to save space and weight?

Other questions may occur to you based on your own experience. If you are new to HCARES or the area, consult with other members of your group for their suggestions.

Most people seem to divide go kits into two categories: one for deployments under 24 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.

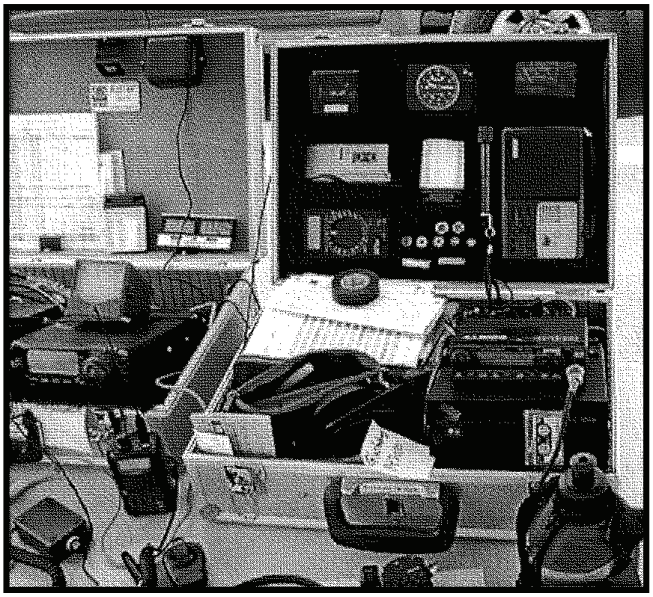
Everyone has their own favorite list of items to keep in a go kit. While preparing this course material we looked at quite a few. Some were detailed, others more general. Some responders have more than one kit for different types of deployments. You will need to develop your own, suited to your own needs, but here is a general list to help you get started. Depending on your situation, you may not need some of the items listed.

Go Kit Idea List

Something to put it in -- one or more backpacks, suitcases, plastic storage tubs, etc.
Package individual items in zip lock bags or plastic kitchen containers

Radios and Accessories

> Handheld VHF or dual-band radio (some people also like to bring a spare)
> Spare rechargeable batteries for handhelds
> Alkaline battery pack for handhelds
> Alkaline batteries
> Speaker mic and earphone for handhelds
> Battery chargers, AC and DC for handhelds
> Mobile VHF or dual-band radio in this list, or you may need special items not listed.



TO BE CONTINUED IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF THE HAM'ER

Why Public Service-Oriented Hams Should Participate in Contests

You may have heard of the Fireman Olympics or lumberjack competitions. Most of you have seen a rodeo - at least on television - where cowboys (and cowgirls) do their thing in a stadium rather than on the range. What do all these have in common? They test skills used on the job in an enjoyable yet challenging environment. Guess what? Amateur Radio operators compete, too, in a variety of contests held throughout the country and the world. Internationally, this is called "Radiosport." Domestically, we just call it "Contesting." Many highly competitive radio amateurs consider their regular operating time to be part of their training for competitions. In a larger sense, though, radio contests are training that improves our ability to do whatever else we do in Amateur Radio more effectively.

Contesting helps prepare us for demanding communication tasks such as might be encountered during a major disaster. Why do I call contests training events? Simply put, all the skills built through contesting experience are valuable in emergency communications situations:

- Hearing, understanding and recording information quickly and accurately.
- Extracting information from weak signals or through interference and noise.
- Establishing and completing contacts with rapid efficiency.
- Finding work-arounds when the unexpected happens, rather than giving up.
- Knowing how to get the most out of your equipment and antennas.

Understanding propagation and making those tough long-haul contacts.

Each contest has its own unique rules that define the challenge. There are specific starting and ending times, encompassing operating periods as short as four hours or as long as two days. Eligible stations (i.e., those with whom contacts count for contest credit) may be confined to a specific state or country or may include all hams worldwide.

There is a defined exchange, a set of information that must be sent, received and logged accurately. Exchanges can be as simple as three or four characters to a lengthy data set that simulates the message header in a formal radiogram.

Each contact adds points, and often there is a "multiplier" for each geographic area contacted. The sum of contact points times the sum of multipliers yields the final score. Participating operators usually submit their contest logs to the sponsoring organization in electronic form, which enables rigorous cross-checking for accuracy and facilitates timely publishing of the results.

Contests are not limited to the HF bands that are primarily the domain of many General-class and higher licensees. There are VHF, UHF and even microwave contests, all available to holders of every class of license. If you think that the two-meter or 70-centimeter band is limited to supporting nearby and repeater contacts, you're in for a surprise!

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Communication over hundreds of miles and more is possible with suitable antennas and equipment. By participating in these competitions, you will learn what works best and how your station's effectiveness can be improved.

You don't have to be in it to win it; just take part, and have fun while you're learning to enhance you and your station's performance. When former FCC Enforcement Bureau Chief Riley Hollingsworth addressed an audience of hams at a major radio convention a few years ago, he advised them to watch and learn from contesters. "They're the best operators in the world," he said. Having participated with many top-notch contesters myself over the last four decades, I would have to agree. If my life depended on a message getting through quickly and accurately under difficult conditions, having world-class contesters at each end of the circuit would greatly enhance the likelihood that I would survive.

Of course, most of us aren't world-class contesters. Yet we, too, can sharpen our operating skills by exercising them in organized competitions. With standardized rules and widely disseminated results, we can compare our performance with that of our peers and measure our improvement from one year to the next.
We can identify and correct weaknesses in our stations, evaluate the impact of equipment and antenna changes, and push ourselves to solve real-time communication problems as efficiently as possible.
All this builds and hones transferable skills. It makes us better at what we do, which is getting the message through. Remember, when all else fails, Amateur Radio works, and properly trained, dedicated hams make it happen. - *Marty Woll, N6VI, ARRL Vice Director, Southwestern Division, from the Southern California Contest Club website, reprinted here by permission.*

2018 HAMFEST

HCARS & DX ENGINEERING SPONSORED THE HENDRICKS COUNTY HAMFEST AT THE AVON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH.

Many thanks goes to the church trustees who allowed the club to have the Hamfest there.

The Hendricks County ARRL leaders:

L-R Indiana Section Manager, Brent Walls N9BA, Hendricks County Emergency Coordinator, Ron Burke KB9DJA, Central Division Director, Kermit Carlson W9XA

American Red Cross

HENDRICKS AMATEUR RADIO EMERGENCY SERVICE COUNTY

The American Red Cross and Hendricks County ARES have joined forces to work together in helping to provide assistance in Hendricks County during an emergency/disaster.

The local chapter of the American Red Cross in Indianapolis, and HCARES Leadership are planning to have training classes in amateur radio, to provide amateur radio communications to the Red Cross, and to have other joint training classes in the near future.

This will be an ongoing partnership between the two groups.

Every **THIRD Saturday of each month**, we have a monthly radio test of the Amateur Radio Stations located at each hospital.

These tests are at **10:30am**. The purposes for these tests are to check the radio's output and audio signal from the radio at each hospital and get a signal check from anyone located outside of the hospital.

The radio operators from the hospitals change monthly and are practicing their skills on how to handle net protocols and message handling. Operating frequency is **147.570.** Please show your support by checking in and give them a signal check.

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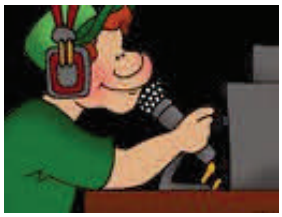
Hendricks County
Amateur Radio Emergency Service

** FOR A COPY OF OUR E-PLAN AND OTHER INFORMATION **

VISIT US ON : www.hendricksares.org

Hendricks County ARES Personnel :

EMERGENCY COORDINATOR : Ron Burke KB9DJA… kb9dja@gmail.com
OPERATIONS : Gordon Cotton KD0EWM… goblue1941@gmail.com
ADMINISTRATION : Ken Kayler KC9SQD... kakayler64@hotmail.com
LOGISTICS : Jake Stellmack KI6PKV… jakestell@aol.com
LIAISON: Jay Wright KK9L… kk9ljay@comcast.net
TRAINING : Verne Madden KD9HEV… vamadden@sbcglobal.net
PUBLIC RELATIONS:Barry Palencer KC9WMS...bpalencer@gmail.com
TECHNICAL SUPPORT: Wayne Michael AC9HP… wrmichael@hotmail.com
PUBLIC POLICY ADVISOR: Tom Hansen W9YI… wa9yi@arrl.net
SAFETY OFFICER : John Terrell N9JWT… john.terrell@aes.com



Hendricks County ARES WEEKLY NET

ON EVERY TUESDAY NIGHT
7:30pm on 147.015

Upcoming Events: Spring 2018

HAMVENTION 2018

MAY 18-20 at the GREENE COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS and EXPO CENTER in XENIA, OHIO.

Tickets are good for all three days

ADVANCE Admission tickets:$22

At the door: $27

For a complete listing of hamfest in our area: visit our website: www.hendricksares.org

INDIANAPOLIS HAMFEST: Communications and Technology Expo.

July 13-14
Outdoor Flea Market Hours:
Time: Friday (13) 2p-7-p
Saturday (14) 6a-2p

Marion County Fairgrounds, Indpls.
7300 East Troy Ave.

Tickets: $ 8 At the Gate

2018 CLASS SCHEDULE INFORMATION

These training classes will be held at the Hendricks County Senior Services Center, 1201 Sycamore Lane in Danville.

Check for date and times on our Website.

When severe weather strikes in Hendricks County, tune to : 147.165 MHz to monitor.

This is Hendricks County SKYWARN Amateur Radio frequency.

April 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

May 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

June 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30