

Yolo County ARES Basic Go-Kit

Have this basic Go-Kit assembled and ready to go, or in your vehicle. You may want to wait until alerted to put in fresh food, water, personal items, charged batteries, etc. It's handy to put a copy of this list in the kit so when you are in a hurry you can refer to it to be sure you have everything.

Hand held radios are nice but RF power and battery life are limited. If you are going to staff a Served Agency site that does not have pre-installed radios it is advisable to have a portable mobile radio, power supply, antenna, and sufficient battery back-up to enable you to operate for up to 12 hours without shore power.

Basic items include:

- 2-meter hand-held
- 2-meter mag-mount antenna and coax
- 2-meter mobile radio with connectors and external power supply
- Earphone / headset
- Paper and pencil
- Message forms
- Log form/book
- ARES ID card
- Extra batteries
- Appropriate clothing
- Food and water

The majority of these items should be kept in a "**Ready Go-Kit.**" Just pick it up on your way out the door for deployment. You might also consider the items on the following list for inclusion in this ready kit, designed to allow you to stay in the field for up to 72 hours.

3 day change of clothes	First aid kit	Extra coax
Foul weather gear	Throat lozenges	RF connectors and adapters
Toilet articles	Prescriptions	Power, audio and other connectors and adapters
Shelter (tent and sleeping bag)	Aspirin or other pain reliever	Batteries
Portable stove; mess kit	Additional radios, packet gear	Toolbox
Lighter or matches	Power supplies, chargers	Soldering iron and solder
Flashlight	Microphones	VOM
Candles	Headphones	Electrical and duct tape
Alarm clock	Patch cords	Safety glasses
3 day supply of water and food	Antennas with mounts	Log books
Snacks	SWR bridge (VHF and HF)	Message forms

Power—Your 72-hour kit should have several sources of power in it, with extra battery packs and an alkaline battery pack for your handheld. For mobile VHF and UHF radios, larger batteries are needed. Gel-cell or deep-cycle marine batteries are good sources of battery power, and you must keep them charged and ready go. It is also wise to have alternate means available to charge your batteries during the emergency. You can charge smaller batteries from other larger batteries. You can build a solar charging device. If you're lucky, you may have access to a power generator that can be used in place of the normal electrical lines. Have more battery capacity than you think you might need. Have several methods available to connect your radios different power sources.

Gain Antennas—You can expect to need some kind of gain antenna for your handheld, as well as an additional gain antenna that can be used on either your handheld or your mobile rig. The extra antenna might be needed by someone else, or your first antenna might break. For VHF and UHF, you can build a J-pole from TV twinlead for an inexpensive and very compact antenna. Have several lengths of coax in your kit, totaling at least 50 feet, and barrel connectors to connect them together.

Personal—Include staples: water, or a reliable water filtration and purification system; enough food for three days; eating utensils, a drinking cup and, if needed, a means of cooking your food. Shelter is also important. Here, you are only limited by the size of your kit and the thickness of your wallet. Some hams plan to use their RVs as shelter, conditions permitting. Other disaster conditions may make the use of an RV impossible, so you should have several different plans for shelter. Light is important psychologically during an emergency. Make sure that you have several light sources available. Various battery-powered lights are available, and lanterns that use propane or other fuel are also good possibilities.