

## Go-Kit Tips

*Nothing is more central to a successful Amateur Radio Emergency Service Official Emergency Station than preparation. The Operator's equipment must be prepared and "ever ready" to be placed into service when the needs arise. Field Day is an excellent opportunity to test the Operator's skills and preparation. A carefully prepared and well-thought out "Go-Kit" is an essential tool. The "Go-Kit" keeps all the essential information, equipment, tools, and documents that the Operator may need. Here are some ideas for preparing your "Go-Kit."*

An Amateur Radio Emergency Service Official Emergency Station Operator should be prepared to operate an emergency station anywhere required, and at a moment's notice. Low-power emergency communications requires a great deal of preparation and practice. The information in the Go-Kits will help you understand the hows and whys of putting together a "Go-Kit," so that you will have the crucial items and materials you will need to enable you to setup a remote, low-power, emergency radio station.

Begin by collecting and gathering containers for the various types of equipment and documents you will need. For each of the listed categories of gear, keep a printed copy of the checklist of what belongs in each container, so that when the need arises, you can save crucial time by being able to check quickly if your kit is complete.

(Of course, be sure to rotate items in and out of the containers as you practice your radio skills with Public Service events, contests, Field Day, and the SET in the Fall. Items that should be rotated include batteries, pens, foodstuffs, and water.)

Because equipment and supplies become particularly valuable in an emergency, keep an especial eye on your possessions. Label everything with your name (not your callsign which is largely incomprehensible to most people).