

What is the difference between “Day-to-Day” Versus “Emergency” Communications?

In the earliest stages of many disasters, there is no immediate need for emergency communications services. You should use this time to monitor developments and prepare to deploy when and if a request for assistance comes. Operators and equipment might be needed at an Emergency Operations Center (EOC) or to set up in field locations, or both. In addition to handling messages, your team needs to prepare for relief or replacement operators, food and water, sleeping accommodations, batteries, fuel, and other logistical needs. Plan for radio and antenna failures and how to replace them. Some operators may need to leave for personal reasons.

Volunteers will need to remain flexible in order to meet the changing needs of their served agency.

Emergency operations happen in real time

Emergency operations have no schedule

Emergency communications are required with little or no warning

Emergency stations must be portable and set up to operate anywhere, anytime

Amateur Radio communicators have equipment, skills, and knowledge to create additional capacity in a very short time.

Over time, emergency communication needs will diminish, and some nets will be reduced or closed. Operators can be demobilized as needs dictate. After the operation has ended, the emergency communications group should review the effectiveness of its response. Evaluations can greatly improve your organization’s effectiveness.