

“Effective support for emergency communications”

There are several things we should do:

(1.) We need to continually recruit new hams: To keep the hobby, as well as the base of amateur radio operators growing, we must recruit new members! Not every ham passing the requirements are going to stick with the hobby, but I believe in a simple principal that goes like this, “If you throw enough mud on the wall, some of it is bound to stick. That simply means to me if we will recruit as many new hams as we can into emergency communications, some of them will excel and become good emergency communicators.

(2.) We need to train new hams: Amateurs like myself who have joined the ranks of amateur radio recently, do not have the experience that many who have been in the hobby for years can rely on. It does us no good to have a large number of people who are interested in emergency communications if we cannot get training or participate in the inevitable emergency. So, we **NEED TO** be offering a number of different types of training:

(3.) We need to get inactive hams back in the hobby: There is a wealth of experience out there that new hams need. One of our goals should be to get these experienced hams, which may have lost interest in the hobby for one reason or another, back on the air! I know experience is important, but I don’t think the best experience is always our own.

(4.) We need to set a good example for the newly licensed hams: So they have got a license, now what? Unless they are given good examples of how hams should act, they will become a part of the problem instead of part of the solution. I often leave a lot of things I would like to say, unsaid for this very reason. I don’t think the hobby is all about me and I know that none of you believe this way either, so let’s do our best not to sound that way on the air.

(5.) We need to keep it all fun: If it isn’t fun, people will not stay with the hobby. In keeping with my first example, this simply means that unless we keep it fun, we are going to have to throw a lot more mud at the wall to get any of it to stick. It is that simple!

Conclusion: It is my hope that we do all of these things, and remember to keep it fun! There are a number of nets that operate before, during, and after a disaster. These nets train and carry emergency as well as health and welfare traffic into and out of affected areas. I encourage you to participate in all the nets you possible can and have time for, including your local FM repeater nets.