

## “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: That is the goal I have for ASTEN. The ASTEN is not nearly the only net that offers good training, but I hope what we do here, will at least help in the effort, and I believe it does.

(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 it 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. Here is what I mean. I have learned a lot so far in life, not nearly everything, and I hope to learn something new each day. My parents taught me some things from their experience in life and hopefully saved me from having to learn some things the hard way. I don't want my children to make some of the same mistakes I have made, so I share my experience with them. I know they will have enough to learn in life from their own experiences, without having to make all the same mistakes I did. I have also learned from some successful experiences in life and I try to teach my children those things, so that they have the advantage to expand their efforts, leaning from some new experiences I never had. We need our more experienced Hams to share there experiences with all of us, and training forums like this should offer an opportunity for people to do that.

(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!

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.