

Amateur Radio Presentations

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**Mendocino Auxiliary Communications Service
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Benefits of Radio Go-Kits

Having a radio Go-Kit has the following benefits:

- **Grab and Go without having to search for items**
- **Familiarity with the equipment and programming**
- **Knowledge that the equipment is all functioning**
- **Having the appropriate forms to record radio traffic**
- **The ability to move to another location that may not have a radio installed**

Types of Radio Go-Kits

There are many types of Go-Kits you can prepare for your radio. They include:

- **A handheld radio Go-Kit**
- **An antenna / coax Go-Kit**
- **An accessory Go-Kit**
- **Complete radio set in a box**
- **A personal items Go-Kit**

The Handheld Radio Go-Kit

The handheld radio Go-Kit should contain:

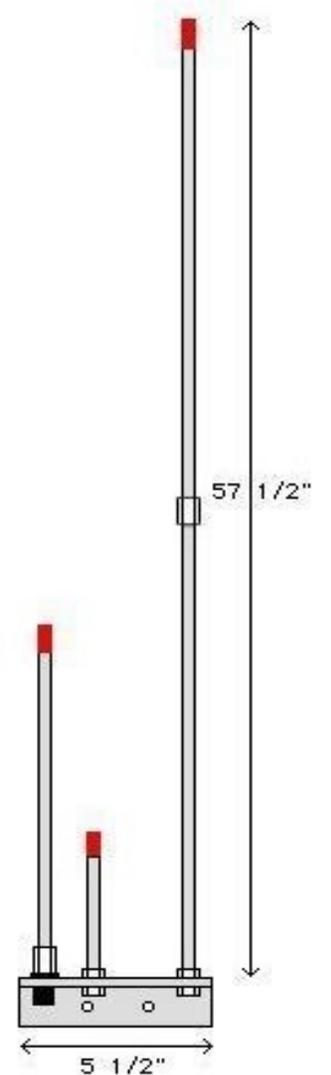
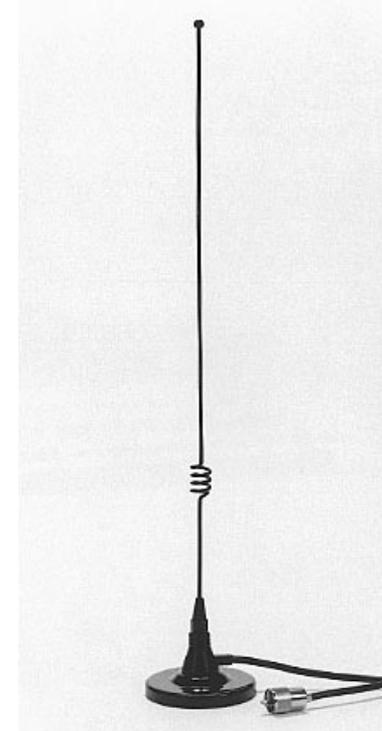
- A handheld radio with attached antenna and battery
- A battery charger with an extra battery
- A lighter adaptor plug
- A SMA to SO-239 adaptor
- A battery adaptor for “AA” size batteries
- A package of “AA” batteries



The Antenna / Coax Go-Kit

To increase the range on a handheld radio, you can use a vehicle antenna. You will need an SMA to SO-239 adaptor

For better 2m/70cm range, the use of a “J” pole antenna or larger base antenna is suggested. These can be mounted on a tripod or other raised base.



Coax Comparison

LMR-400	Least loss	Stiff cable
RG-213	2X loss of LMR-400	More flexible
RG-58	4X loss of LMR-400	Very flexible

If the distance from the radio to the antenna is 10 feet or less, RG-58 is sufficient.

If the distance is more than 10 feet, you probably should use RG-213.

50 feet or more, use LMR-400

Coax Carrying and Storage

Your Go-Kit coax can be coiled and held in place by using two sided Velcro strips.



For RG-213 and LMR-400, a large round bag can be used.



For storage, and to keep the ends clean and dry, the coax should have caps placed on both ends.



Antenna / Coax Accessories

One of the primary accessories everyone should have is a roll of electrical tape. This has 1000 uses in ham radio.



Another handy item is two sided Velcro strips. These are 8" x 1/2" long with a slot on one end so they can be attached to an item permanently.



Antenna / Coax Accessories cont:

Another very useful item is a barrel connector. These can be used to connect two coax cables if you need a longer coax.



For antenna safety, it is always good to have some safety or reflective tape. This is to protect both people and your antenna wire or coax from damage.



Summary

- **We have covered handheld radio Go-Kits and antenna Go-Kits plus some accessories.**
- **The “best” radio Go-Kit is a mobile radio installed in your vehicle. It’s always there and ready to go.**
- **When you evacuate or are activated, don’t forget to bring some food, water and extra cash.**