Go Kit Planning
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What is a Go Kit?

- Equipment, tools and other items used in an ARES deployment
- Allows for deployment on short notice
- Goal is to be self-sufficient
- Advanced planning is a must!
Before You Begin

Γνῶθι Σεαυτόν
(Know Thyself)

- Ancient Greek Aphorism
## Two Deployment / Kit Types

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Short Duration / Basic Kit</th>
<th>Long Duration / Extended Kit</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Less than a day</td>
<td>Up to 72 hours</td>
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<tr>
<td>Think “long day hike”</td>
<td>Think “weekend camping trip”</td>
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<tr>
<td>Overnight is rare</td>
<td>May require more robust comm gear</td>
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<tr>
<td>Basic communication needs</td>
<td>Shelter and extended sustenance required</td>
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<tr>
<td>Smaller, on-hand kit</td>
<td>Builds on the basic kit</td>
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<td>Very rapid deployment</td>
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Major Kit Components

- Administrative
- Communications
- Safety
- Sustenance
- Clothing / Shelter / Comfort
Basic Kit - Administrative

- Drivers license
- FCC license
- ARES ID
- ICS message / log forms
- Phone list
- COPLAN
- Emergency response plan
- Other information / instruction forms
- Pens / pencils
- Note paper / clipboard
- Maps
Basic Kit - Communications

- HT radio
- Spare HT radio
- Spare batteries for both HT radios
- HT antenna
- HT charger
- Headset / speaker mic
- Manuals
- Tools
Basic Kit - Safety

- Reflective vest
- Good shoes or boots
- Flashlight
- First aid kit
- Dust Mask
Basic Kit - Sustenance

- Water
- Food for the whole day
  - MRE
  - Foil pouch tuna / chicken
  - Energy / protein bars
- Snacks
- Take extra care if you have special dietary needs
Basic Kit - Comfort

- Change of clothes
- Sunscreen / bug spray
- Cell phone / charger
- Medication
- Cash / change
- Hat / sunglasses
- Toilet paper
- Extra glasses / contacts
- Rain gear
- Jacket / blanket
- Gum / mints / toothbrush & toothpaste
- Hand sanitizer
Extended Kit - Admin

- Repeater directory
- Office supplies
- Extra pens / pencils / sharpener
- Computer with Aircard
Extended Kit - Comm

- Mobile radio with battery pack(s)
- HF radio
- UHF/VHF & HF antennas with coax cables
- Tripod / deployment equipment for antennas
- Packet equipment
- Repair tools
- Fuses / tape / adapters
Extended Kit - Safety

- Larger light source
- Foul weather gear
- Weather radio / scanner
- Hard hat
- Safety goggles
Extended Kit - Sustenance

- Water for 72 hours
- Extra water
- Food for 72 hours
  - Variety
  - Protein and calories
- Camp stove
- Utensils
- Paper towels
- Trash bags
- Matches / lighter
- Gatorade or similar
Extended Kit - Comfort

- Tent / sleeping bag / pillow / blankets
- Clothes for 72 hours
- Warm jacket / gloves
- Thermal underwear
- Hand warmers
- Toiletries (deodorant, soap, et al)
- Medication for 72 hours
- Fire sticks
- Towels
Putting It All Together

- Backpack
- Bail-out / tactical pack
- Duffle bag
- Rubbermaid containers
- Pelican cases

- Anything can be pressed into service; waterproof and lockable are a big plus
- Keep basic and extended kits separate
Go Kit Maintenance

- Keep a list of each kit’s / pack’s items with the pack
- Basic kit should be ready to go and nearby at all times
- Extended kit should be in a convenient spot (garage, trunk)

- Re-check contents periodically
- Keep tabs of expiration dates
- Keep batteries charged
- Use it! Especially your radio gear
- Learn / improve / refine
Before You Go

Your family comes first.
Make sure your family is safe, secure and provided for before you leave on an ARES deployment