

To effectively support emergency communications, there are several things we must do:

(1.) We must recruit new hams: To keep the hobby, as well as the base of amateur radio operators growing, we must recruit new members!

(2.) We must train new hams: It does no good to have a large number of people who are interested in this hobby if they cannot get licensed or participate in the inevitable emergency. So, we **NEED TO** be offering a number of different types of training: both for the new ham as well as the experienced Elmer!

(3.) We must 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, who have lost interest in the hobby for one reason or another, back on the air! If you are one of these, **WE NEED YOUR EXPERIENCE!**

(4.) We must mentor the newly licensed hams: So they have got a license, now what? Unless they are properly trained in the skills of emergency communications, they will become a part of the problem during emergencies and or disasters.

(5.) We have to keep it all fun: If it isn't fun, no one will come back. It is that simple!

It is the hope of our Section Leadership that we do all of these things, and keep it fun!

There are a number of traffic 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.

NETS AND TRAFFIC PROCEDURES:

Emergency radio communications nearly always use directed nets. This type of organized net makes for efficient operations and helps insure that urgent matters get handled first. In a directed net, the NCO will exercise strict control, requiring every station to get permission before using the nets frequency for any reason. If operations are slow, the net control may declare the net open and you then may call anyone you wish. Be prepared however, for the NCO to change back to a directed net without any notice. In any

event, the net control is responsible for the operation of the net and you are responsible for following their instructions. If you come into a net late, listen for the procedures being used and then follow them.

If a directed net is in progress, do not check into the net simply to say that you are listening or to give personal information. ONLY check in when asked and if you are actually available for an assignment, otherwise, DO NOT transmit. Simply monitor the happenings. Also remember, communication operators are not reporters. Except for emergencies, do not provide information unless you are asked.