

PERSONAL GO-KIT FOR EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS

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ROCKY MOUNTAIN EMCOMM

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Introduction

This presentation is intended to get you thinking about your Go-Kit:

- **Why** you need one.
- **What** items you might want to put in it.
- **How** you might divide it up for ease of transportation and for optimum utility.

By giving you a view of AD7HL, KF7DKM and KE7HLR's Go-Kits, I hope to offer some suggestions for items you can include in your own Go-Kits.

Overview of Presentation

- Mission of the Emergency Communicator
- What is a Go-Kit?
- Why you need a Go-Kit
- Types of Go-Kits
- A look at KE7HLR, AD7HL and KF7DKM's Go-Kits
- Questions

Mission of the Emergency Communicator

Your Mission is to get every message you handle to its intended recipient—quickly, accurately, and with a minimum of fuss.

Success requires that you employ your operational and technical skills at the highest level possible.

*You must be **adequately prepared** to handle your assignment, so that you can keep focused on the job at hand.*

Mission of the Emergency Communicator

Being prepared for an EmComm assignment involves a wide range of considerations, including:

- ❖ Radio Equipment
- ❖ Power Sources
- ❖ Clothing and Personal Gear
- ❖ Food and Water
- ❖ Information
- ❖ Specialized Training

Mission of the Emergency Communicator

Having your Go-Kit assembled ahead of time will help you be prepared when the call-out comes.

Think through each probable assignment you might be faced with and plan your Go-Kit to meet the situations you might encounter.

Types of Incidents

You may be called upon to assist with various disasters, incidents and events:

- **Natural Disasters**

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- **Severe Winter Storm / Flooding**
- **Hurricane / Tornado**

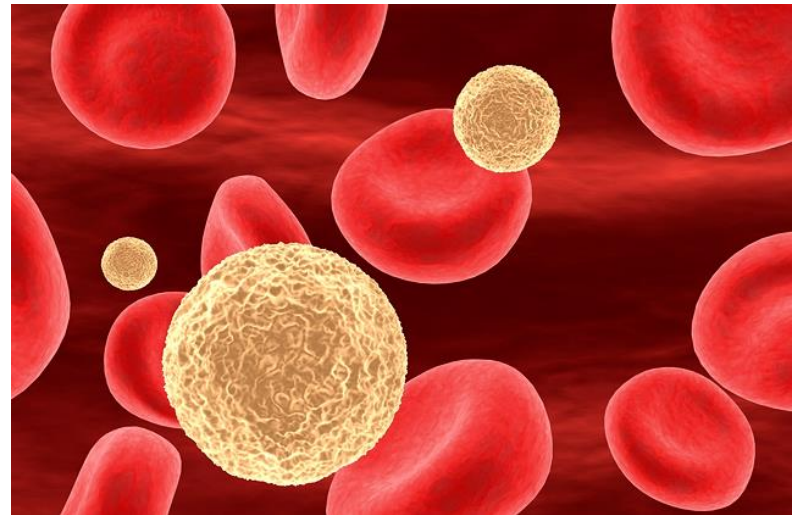


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You may be called upon to assist with various disasters, incidents and events:

– Natural Disasters

- Earthquake
- Wildfire / Destructive Fire
- Severe Winter Storm / Flooding
- Hurricane / Tornado
- Epidemic / Pandemic



Types of Incidents

– Man-Made Incidents

- Terrorist Attack
- Mass Casualties
- Search and Rescue Operations
- Multi-Vehicle Pile-Ups (*most often--fog and ice*)
- Aircraft Crash
- Train Derailment
- Hazmat Incident

Types of Incidents

– Public Service Events

- **Races and Walk-a-thons**
- **Parades and Celebrations**
- **ARRL Field Day**

Types of Assignments

You may be asked to assist with any of a number of assignments, from a variety of operating locations:

– Base Station

- **Incident Command or other Fixed Command Post** (*Helibase, Staging Areas, etc.*)
- **Emergency Operations Center**
- **Hospital**
- **At Home** (*HF Long-Haul Relay or Traffic Net*)

Types of Assignments

– Field-Portable Station

- **Field Command Post**
- **Shelter**
- **Aid or Rest Station**

Types of Assignments

– Mobile Station

- **Mobile Command Post**
- **Shadow**
- **Vehicle Ride-Along** (*Transport, SAG Wagon, etc.*)
- **Relay Station** (*Manual Repeater*)

Modes of Communications

You may be asked to provide communications using a variety of modes:

- **Tactical Voice Communications** (*VHF/UHF FM*)
- **Digital Message Traffic** (*VHF Packet or D-STAR*)
- **Live Video** (*Amateur Television*)
- **Long-Haul Message Traffic** (*HF SSB Voice, PACTOR, WINMOR or CW*)
- **Other Available Modes** (*Telephone, Cellphone, Fax, Agency Radio, Runner*)

Length of Assignment

*The length of time you are asked to assist will depend on the **type and size** of the incident and the **number** of Emergency Communicators available:*

- **Short**—A Few Hours to Less Than A Day*
- **Overnight***
- **Two to Three Days***
- **Long-Duration**—Greater than 72 Hours*

What is a Go-Kit?

Pre-staged collection of **equipment** and **personal gear** that you need to perform your duties as an Emergency Communicator.

Why you need a Go-Kit

- Your assignment location will probably be **without power, heat, water, and telephone**. Most businesses in the area will probably **not be open**, due to the emergency.
- As an Emergency Communicator, **YOU** must provide your own **Equipment** and **Gear**.
- **YOU** are responsible for your own **Safety, Welfare** and **Comfort**.

Why you need a Go-Kit

Building your Go-Kit now ensures that items you need are:

- Available when you need them.
- Where you expect them to be.

When the Activation Call comes, you won't have time to hunt for things!

Types of Go-Kits

Your Go-Kit should be tailored to your **needs**, your **equipment**, your expected **assignments**, your level of **experience**, your **location**, and the expected **length of assignments**.

Go-Kits by Function

Break-up your Go-Kit into different types of kits, depending on **function**

- **Basic** (*Personal*)
- **Specialty** (*Radio, Computer, Tool, etc.*)
- **Miscellaneous** (*Vehicle, Shelter, etc.*)

Go-Kits by Location

- **Carried on Person**
- **Carried in Vehicle**
- **Cached at Fixed Location** (*Home, Office, etc.*)
- **Non-Cached Equipment** (*Gathered as needed*)

Go-Kits Levels

Ideally, your different Go-Kits should be relatively small and easily-transportable.

Each kit should supplement each other with additional equipment and supplies, to extend your capabilities and endurance.

Basic Go-Kits (Personal)

- **Day Pack**—*Items needed for a short-duration or mobile/foot assignment. Keep in vehicle for immediate access.*
- **24-Hour Kit**—*Supplemental items needed for an overnight assignment.*
- **72-Hour Kit**—*Supplemental items needed for an extended assignment of up to three days.*

Specialty Go-Kits

- **Field Office Kit**—*Manage your communications station.*
- **Portable Radio Kit**—*the classic “Radio in a Briefcase.”*
- **Computer Kit**—*Notebook computer and radio interface.*
- **Tool Kit**—*Tools and equipment for making repairs.*
- **Antenna and Mast Kit**—*Portable antenna, mast, and tripod.*
- **Emergency Power Equipment**—*Batteries, Generator, etc.*

Miscellaneous Go-Kits

- **Additional Gear**—*Sleeping bag, tent, shade canopy, etc.*
- **Vehicle Tool Kit**—*Equipment needed to keep your vehicle going.*
- **Evacuation Kit**—*Food, water and equipment needed if it becomes necessary to evacuate from your current location.*

A Look Inside KE7HLR and KF7IAW's Go-Kit



Pocket Carry

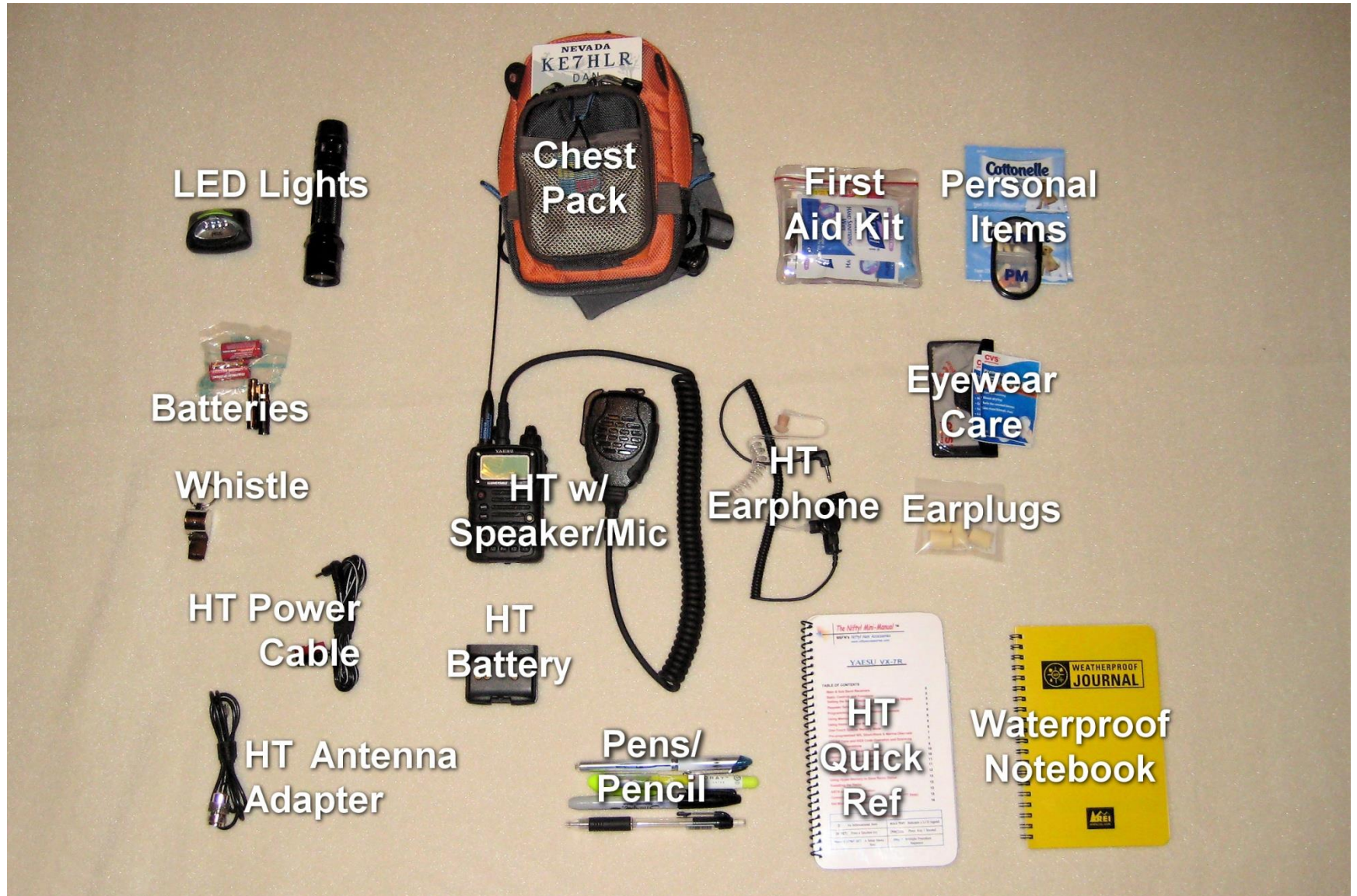
In the absence of any other equipment, always have these with you whenever you leave the house:

- Driver's License
- "Notify in Case of Emergency" List
- Cash / Coins
- Cell Phone
- Leatherman *Multi-Tool*
- Wristwatch

HT Pack

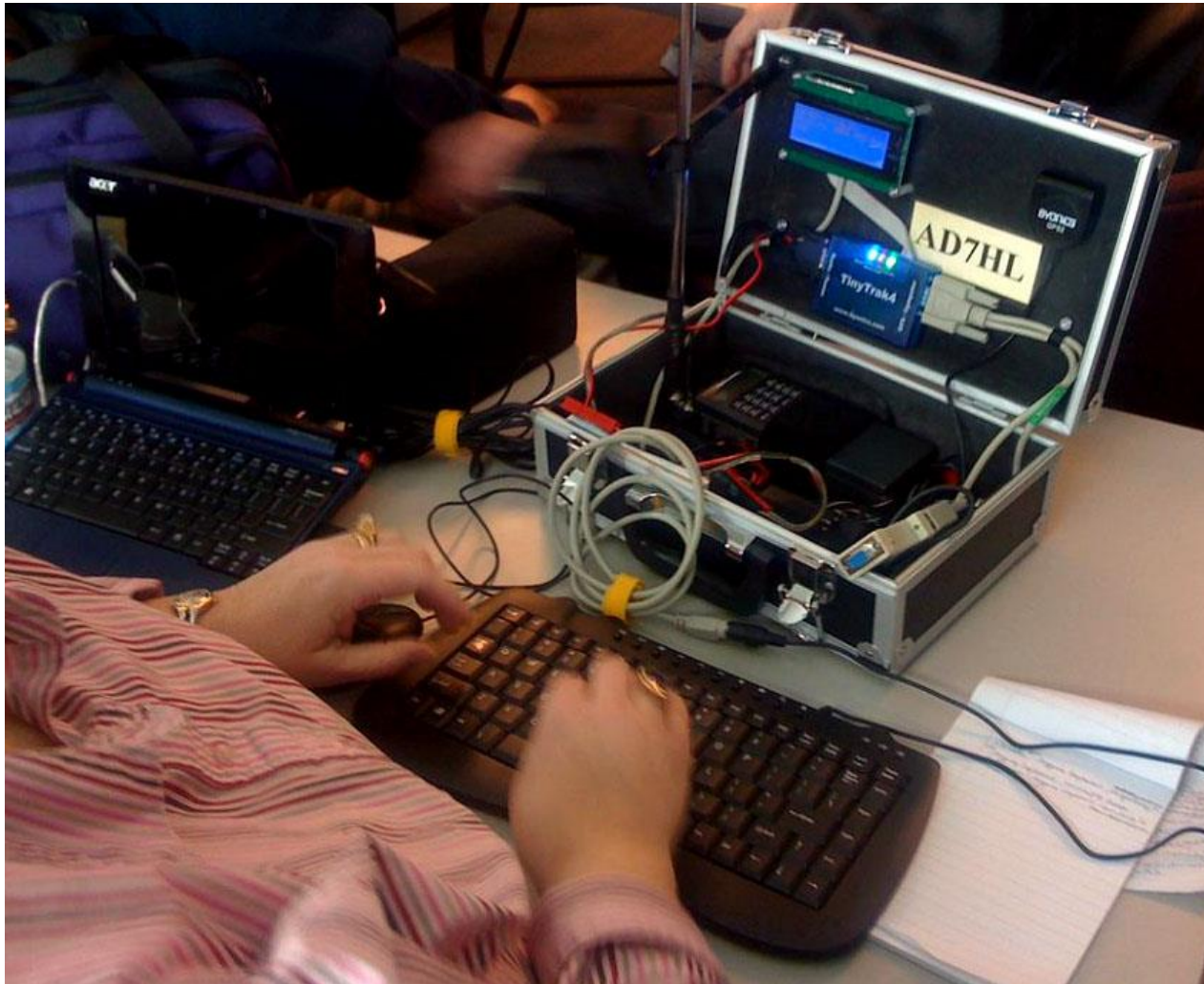
- The most basic of Kits—simply a radio and some support gear.
- One for each family/team member.
- Kept in vehicle, ready for immediate use.

HT Pack



APRS HT Kit

Shirley Larsen, AD7HL



Field Office Kit

- Contains paperwork and references useful for managing a communications station.
- Designed for 2-person team.

Field Office Kit



24-Hour Kit

- Contains food, water, and comfort supplies for events lasting 12 hours to overnight.
- Day 1 of the 72-hour kit.
- Designed for 2 people.

24-Hour Kit



72-Hour Kit

- Extends 24-Hour Kit out to 72 hours (days 2 and 3).
- Designed for 2 people.
- Modular organization allows separating components as needed.

72-Hour Kit

72-Hour Kit in
Mountainsmith Modular Hauler 4 System



VHF/UHF Mobile Radio Kit

- Radio in a briefcase.
- Used for portable voice or packet operations.
- Can be set up as a cross-band repeater.

VHF/UHF Mobile Radio Kit



VHF/UHF Mobile Radio Kit

Kevin Reeve, N7RXE

Sportsmen's Plus Utility Dry Box Radio Kit



VHF/UHF Mobile Radio Kit

V. Philip Rasmussen, N7JFG

Briefcase Mobile Radio Kit



HF Radio Kit

- For portable SSB, PACTOR, WINMOR or PSK-31 HF operations, as well as VHF/UHF voice.
- Yaesu FT-897 Radio is not kept in kit—it serves as my VHF/UHF/HF rig in motor home.

HF Radio Kit



HF/VHF/UHF Mobile Radio Kit

Kelly Hansen, KF7TDP

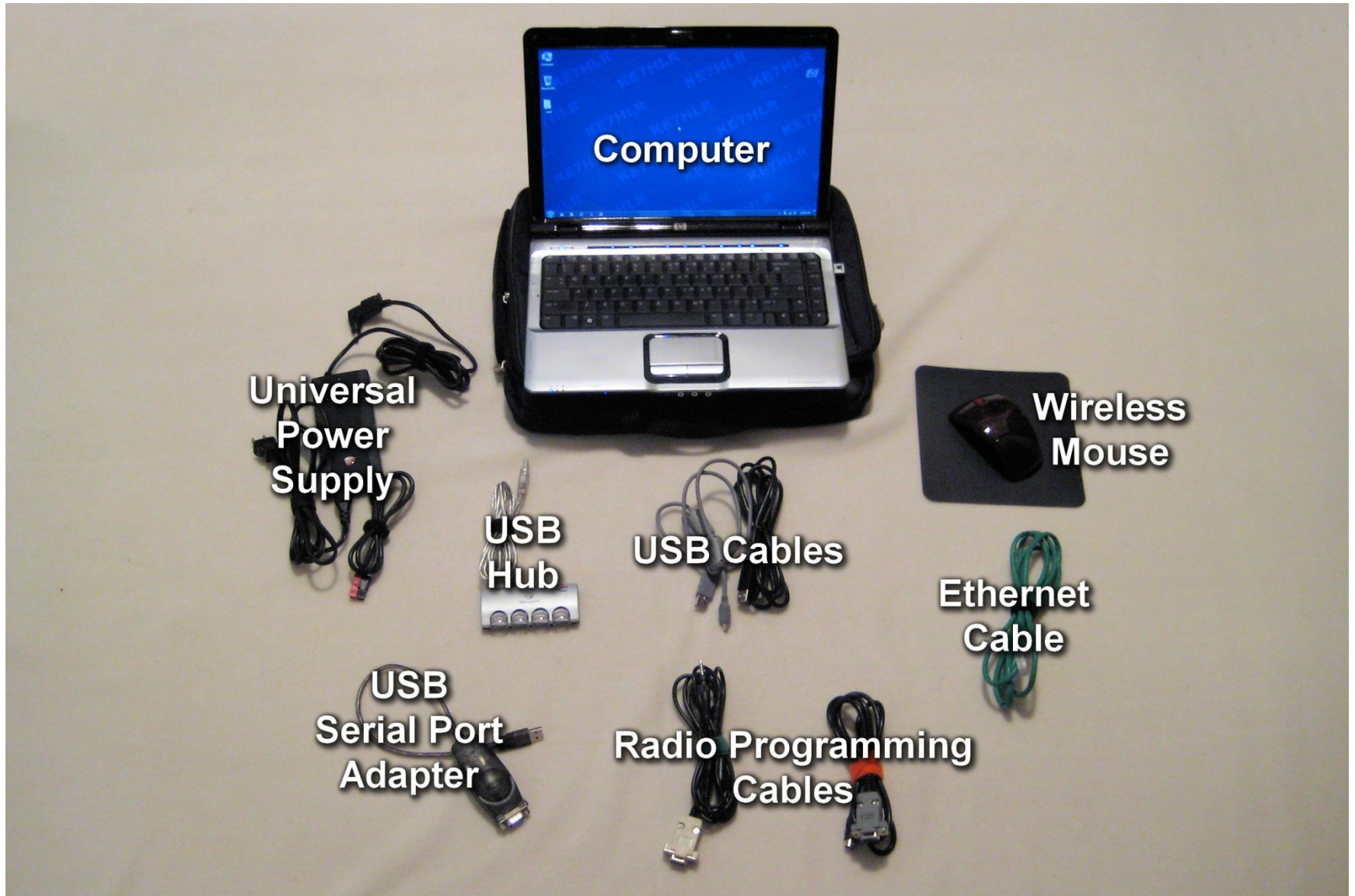
Plano Tool Box Radio Kit



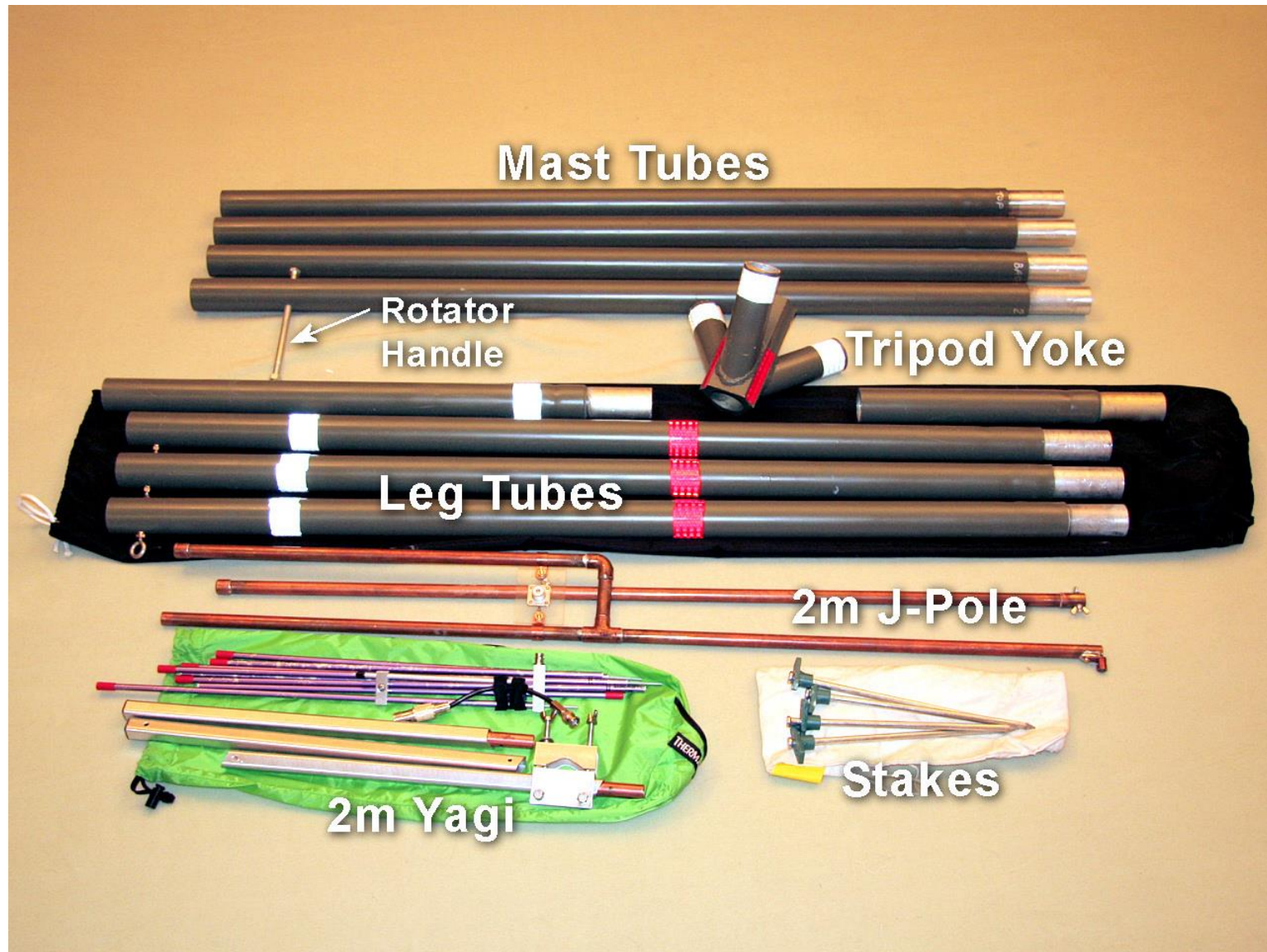
Computer Kit

- Notebook computer with portable scanner used to run Packet, APRS, PACTOR, WINMOR, and PSK-31.

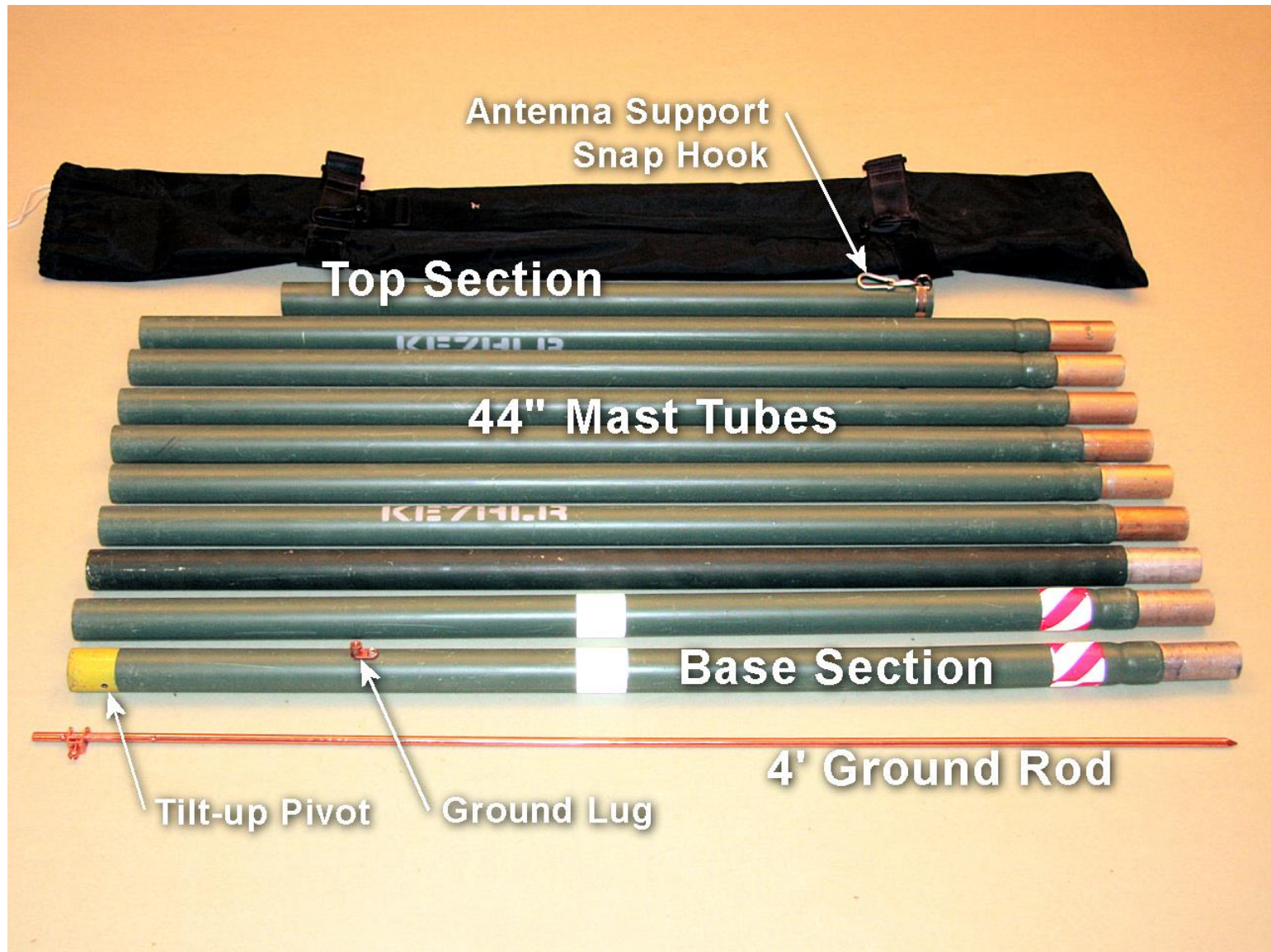
Computer Kit



15-ft Antenna Mast Set KE7HLR



35-ft Antenna Mast Set KE7HLR



Emergency Power

- Includes Batteries, Battery Chargers, and Generator.
- Not normally cached as a kit; must be gathered as needed.

Emergency Power



In-Vehicle Equipment



In Conclusion

The goal of this presentation was to get you thinking about your own Go-Kit—

- Why you need one,
- What items you might want to put in it,
- How you might divide it and package it for optimum utility and ease of transportation.

I hope I have met this goal and have given you some ideas for building your own kit.



Displayed Go-Kits

Please View the Displayed Go-Kits:

Shirley Larsen, AD7HL

Laurie Littledike, KF7DKM

Thank You!
Shirley Larsen, AD7HL

with special thanks to:
Dan O'Connor, KE7HLR
Laurie Littledike, KF7DKM