

ERC
Emergency Response Communications
SOUTHERN UTAH

Connecting Membership and Leadership to Resources

PEOPLE • COMMUNICATIONS • PREPAREDNESS • STRONGER COMMUNITIES

SERVE
PREPARE
CONNECT
MAKE A DIFFERENCE

MEMBERSHIP

COMMUNICATIONS

LEADERSHIP

TRAINING

RESOURCES

RESPONSE

ERC COMMUNICATIONS SUPPORT STRONGER TOGETHER

STRONGER MEMBERS

SUPPORTED LEADERSHIP

ACCESS TO RESOURCES

PREPARED COMMUNITIES

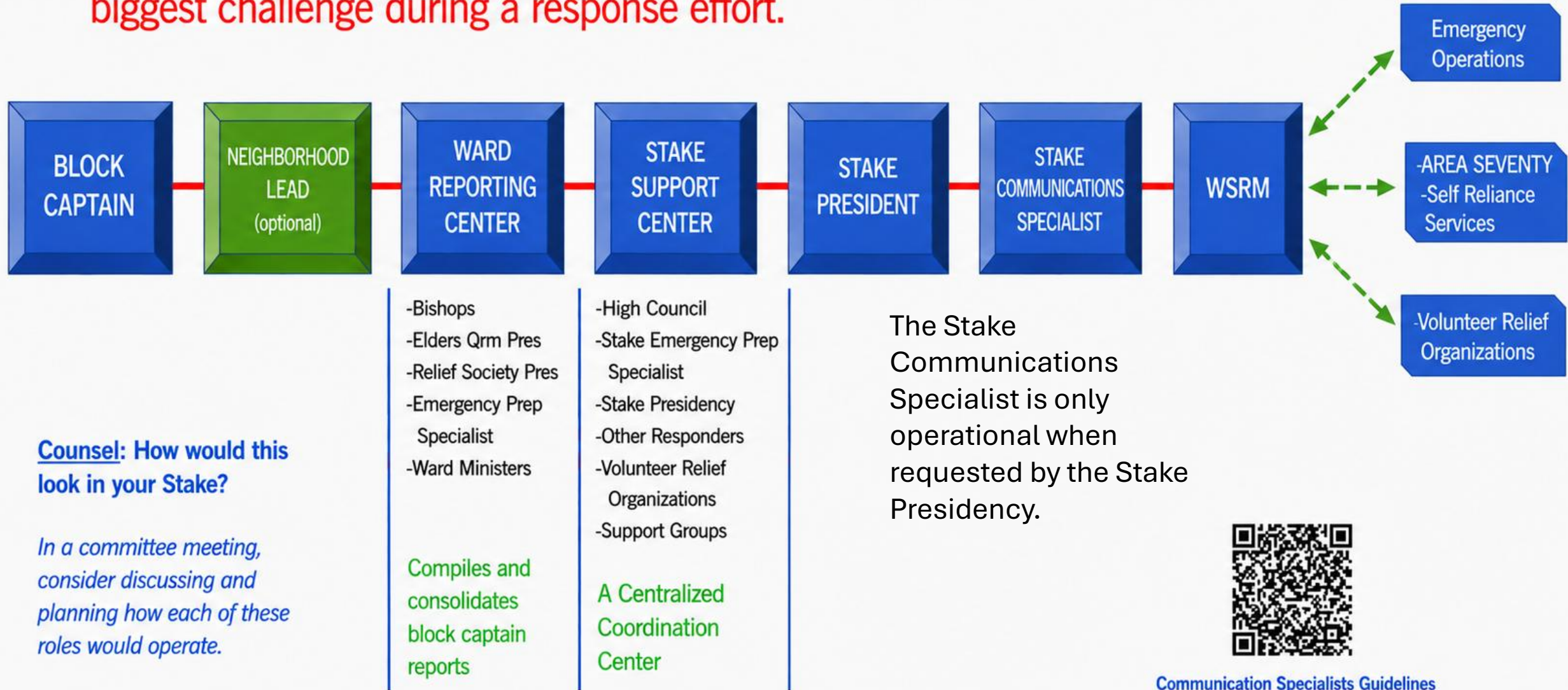
A SAFER TOMORROW

OVERVIEW OF AVAILABLE TOOLS
AND RESPONSIBILITIES

HELPING LEADERS GET THE
MESSAGE THROUGH

Ward Level Communication Lines – Example

Note: The upward flow of timely and accurate information is one of the biggest challenge during a response effort.



We Are Communicators Not Decision Matters

*Reliable
Communication
Builds Stronger
Communities*



INFORM | CONNECT | ENABLE | SUPPORT

COMMUNICATIONS

SERVE
CONNECT
SUPPORT
PREPARE

PEOPLE | INFORMATION | CONNECTION | SERVICE | PREPAREDNESS

The **Communication Specialist's** duty is to relay the leadership's messages to their intended destination accurately and in a timely manner, and to provide acknowledgement when needed. **We are communicators, not decision-makers**, and we emphasize that we are here to support the priesthood keys, who have the responsibility to oversee emergency response efforts within their assigned stewardships. **In order to help them do their jobs, they need solid and reliable communications and processes in place.** Wards/Stakes are tasked to take care of their own; however, if help from SLC is needed, the stake president is the only one with the keys who can make that call, once he has accurate and reliable information and time to process it.



STAKE EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST QUALIFICATIONS



The Stake Emergency Communications Specialist supports Church leaders, members, and the community by providing reliable communications in times of emergency or disaster. This calling requires spiritual worthiness, technical proficiency, and a commitment to service.

CATEGORY	QUALIFICATIONS	CATEGORY	QUALIFICATIONS
 1. SPIRITUAL QUALIFICATIONS	• Member in good standing of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints • Worthy to hold a temple recommend • Sustained by the stake presidency in this calling • Demonstrates faith, integrity, and a Christlike attitude • Committed to service and the safety and well-being of others	 5. LEADERSHIP & INTERPERSONAL	• Strong communication and interpersonal skills • Able to work with stake leaders, other specialists, and community partners • Demonstrates good judgment and decision-making under pressure • Able to train, mentor, and support other operators • Maintains confidentiality and handles sensitive information appropriately
 2. TECHNICAL COMPETENCE	• Basic to advanced knowledge of radio communications (Amateur Radio preferred) • Valid Amateur Radio license (General class or higher preferred) • Proficient in VHF/UHF and HF radio operation • Knowledge of simplex, repeater, and digital communication modes • Familiar with emergency communication systems (e.g., Winlink, MeshCore, NTS) • Able to troubleshoot and maintain communication equipment	 6. PLANNING & PREPAREDNESS	• Participates in stake and area emergency planning • Helps develop communication plans, call trees, and resource lists • Ensures equipment readiness and operator availability • Supports drills, exercises, and after-action reviews • Maintains updated contact, frequency, and repeater lists
 3. TRAINING & EXPERIENCE	• Completion of Church-provided emergency communications training • Completion of ICS-100, ICS-200, and ICS-700 (or equivalent) • Understanding of FEMA/Church emergency response principles • Experience participating in nets, drills, or Field Day events • Experience with deployment of communications in real or simulated events	 7. PHYSICAL & PRACTICAL	• Able to deploy equipment in field conditions if required • Physically able to set up equipment and work in various environments • Basic first aid/CPR certification preferred • Able to travel locally and respond as needed • Prepared with personal and family emergency plans
 4. EQUIPMENT KNOWLEDGE	• Knowledge of radios, antennas, power systems, and accessory equipment • Able to set up and operate portable and fixed communication stations • Understands backup power options and off-grid communications • Familiar with mesh networking and satellite communication options • Able to inventory, test, and maintain communication assets	 8. SECURITY & COMPLIANCE	• Understands FCC Part 97 rules and proper radio procedures • Protects the privacy and security of Church information • Uses communications resources appropriately and responsibly • Understands prohibited communications (e.g., no discussion of physical status of Church buildings on amateur radio) • Follows stake and Church policies and guidelines

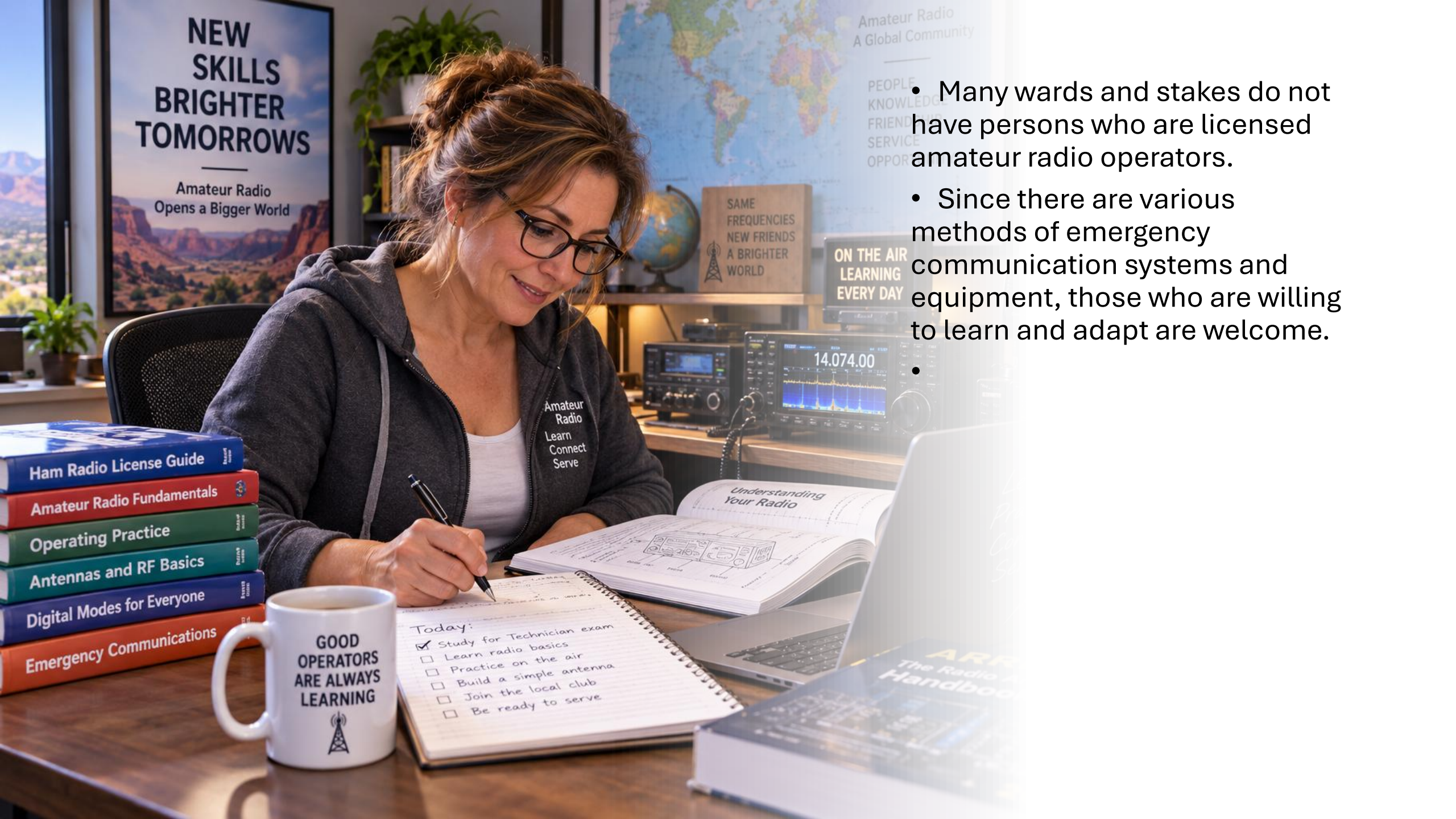


PURPOSE

To provide reliable, timely, and effective communications in times of emergency, supporting the stake presidency, welfare efforts, and the safety of members and communities.



I have reviewed these qualifications and commit to growing in the skills and experiences needed to serve effectively as a Stake Emergency Communications Specialist.



- Many wards and stakes do not have persons who are licensed amateur radio operators.
- Since there are various methods of emergency communication systems and equipment, those who are willing to learn and adapt are welcome.

COMMUNICATIONS OPTIONS DURING SERIOUS EMERGENCIES

Multiple methods. Redundant paths. The right tool for the right situation.

RELIABILITY ORDER	COMMUNICATION OPTION	HOW IT WORKS	RANGE (Typical)	RELIABILITY During Serious Emergencies	POWER REQUIREMENTS	BEST USE CASES	EXAMPLES / EQUIPMENT	NOTES / LIMITATIONS
1	FACE-TO-FACE 	Direct person-to-person communication.	Line of sight	EXCELLENT	None	- Immediate local coordination - When all other systems fail	In person	Requires being in the same location.
2	RUNNERS / COURIERS 	Physical delivery of written messages or data.	As far as they can travel	EXCELLENT	None	- When electronic systems fail - Critical written documents - Last-resort communication	Bicycles, vehicles, foot travel	Slow; dependent on transportation and security.
3	AMATEUR (HAM) RADIO (HF) 	Worldwide communication using high frequency (HF) radio.	50 – 3,000+ miles (global)	VERY GOOD	Higher (100W+) DC power required	- Long-distance coordination - State / national / international contacts - Emergency nets	HF transceivers, antennas	Requires more skill, antennas, and power. Longer setup time.
4	AMATEUR (HAM) RADIO (VHF/UHF) 	Two-way radio using amateur bands; local repeaters extend range.	5 – 50+ miles (repeater dependent)	VERY GOOD	Moderate (12V DC / battery)	- Local/Regional coordination - Health & welfare traffic - Check-ins and resource requests	HTs, mobile radios, repeaters	Depends on repeaters and infrastructure; disrupted by power outages.
5	MESH NETWORK (MeshCore, goTenna, etc.) 	Devices form a self-healing network that passes messages node-to-node.	1 – 10+ miles (per hop) (expandable)	VERY GOOD	Low to moderate (USB / 12V DC)	- Local network without infrastructure - Teams in the field - Data + text messaging	MeshCore, goTenna, Briar, other mesh nodes	Line of sight helps; network needs enough nodes to function.
6	SATELLITE PHONE 	Talk and text via orbiting satellites.	Global (coverage dependent)	GOOD	Battery (rechargeable)	- When no other systems work - Critical coordination - Emergency calls	Iridium, Inmarsat satellite phones	Expensive; may need open sky; congestion possible in major disasters.
7	TWO-WAY SATELLITE MESSENGERS 	Send short messages via satellite (not full voice).	Global	GOOD	Battery (rechargeable)	- Check-in messages - Location tracking - Non-urgent updates	Garmin inReach, SPOT X	Limited to text; subscription required.
8	FRS / GMRS RADIOS 	Short-range, license-free (FRS) or license-required (GMRS) two-way radio.	1 – 5 miles (terrain dependent)	FAIR	AA batteries / rechargeable	- Neighborhood coordination - Local volunteer teams - Family communication	FRS radios, GMRS radios	Limited range; can be blocked by terrain and buildings.
9	CELLULAR (VOICE / TEXT) 	Uses cell towers for voice, text, and data.	Tower dependent (urban > rural)	FAIR	Phone battery / power bank	- Everyday communication - If towers and power are working	Cell phones	Towers need power & backhaul; networks can be overloaded or fail.
10	TEXT-TO-911 / EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEMS 	Send text to 911 or receive alerts from authorities.	Cell tower dependent	FAIR	Phone battery	- When voice calls not possible - Receive urgent alerts and instructions	Text-to-911, WEA (Wireless Emergency Alerts)	Requires cellular service; not all areas support text-to-911.



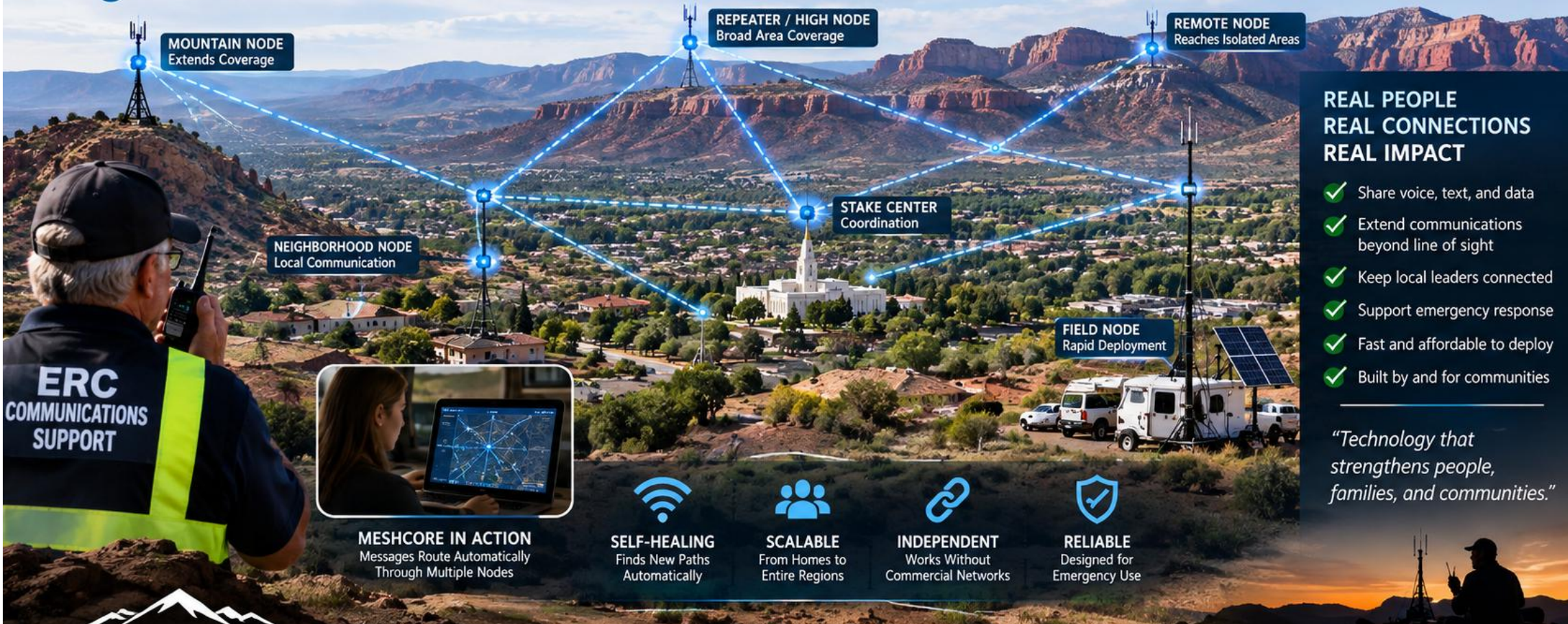
BEST PRACTICE: Use multiple methods, train regularly, and maintain backup power for all critical equipment. When one system fails, another still works.

KEY TAKEAWAY

No single system is 100% reliable.
Layered communication saves lives.



Keeping Our Communities Connected
When Other Systems Fail



REAL PEOPLE
REAL CONNECTIONS
REAL IMPACT

- ✓ Share voice, text, and data
- ✓ Extend communications beyond line of sight
- ✓ Keep local leaders connected
- ✓ Support emergency response
- ✓ Fast and affordable to deploy
- ✓ Built by and for communities

“Technology that strengthens people, families, and communities.”



Resilient Communications for a Stronger Tomorrow

PREPARE • CONNECT • SERVE • TOGETHER

COMMUNICATIONS
BUILD STRONGER
COMMUNITIES



MeshCore is a license-free text-based system.
Currently connecting Rexburg, Idaho, to Las Vegas.

Expanding coverage weekly.
This equipment is owned by my citizens who want a secure, non-subscription service that is totally free.

Perfect for Ward and Stake leadership communications when all commercial systems are done.

The only cost is equipment, which is **very reasonable** in priced.



What Type of Radios Should Citizens Acquire?

Choose the right level for your needs and your role

LEVEL
1

Basic Household

- Simple FRS handheld radios
- USB charging preferred
- Weather alert helpful



LEVEL
2

Better Prepared Household

- Better FRS or entry-level GMRS handheld
- Spare batteries, car charger
- Printed channel list



LEVEL
3

Neighborhood Team Lead

- GMRS handheld or mobile radio
- Better antenna
- Multiple charging options
- Communications notebook



Helpful Features



Clear display



Simple controls



Good battery life



Durable build



USB-C charging



Spare batteries



Start with what you can afford, and upgrade as your role and responsibilities grow.
Good communication saves time, reduces risk, and helps keep everyone safe.





FRS vs GMRS: Which Radio Service Fits Your Neighborhood?

Two radio services. Different features. Same goal: Stay connected.

Feature	FRS	GMRS
 License Needed	 No license	 FCC license required
 Typical Users	 Families and neighbors	 Families, team leads, neighborhood coordinators
 Ease of Use	 Very easy	 Easy
 Power	 Lower	 Higher
 Range	 Short to moderate	 Moderate to better local coverage
 Repeater Use	 No	 Yes If Available
 Best Use	 Household neighborhood communication	 Neighborhood leadership and organized local communication



Best simple approach:
FRS for all households, GMRS for trained neighborhood leads.



STARLINK VS SATELLITE PHONES: RELIABILITY & COMPARISON

Performance can vary by location, weather, equipment, power availability, and network congestion.

RELIABILITY FACTOR	 STARLINK	 SATELLITE PHONES (Iridium, Inmarsat, Thuraya)	COST OF EQUIPMENT (One-Time)	MONTHLY / USAGE FEES (Typical)	WINNER (Overall Reliability)
 NETWORK DEPENDENCY Does it rely on local infrastructure?	LOW Operates independently via satellite constellation. No reliance on cell towers.	LOW Operates independently via satellite constellation. No reliance on local infrastructure.	STANDARD KIT \$349 – \$599 (One-Time) Accessories (optional): \$50 – \$200	RESIDENTIAL PLAN \$120 / mo (Best for home or fixed use) ROAM PLAN \$150 – \$200 / mo (For travel & portable use)	TIE Both are fully independent of local infrastructure.
 COVERAGE Global availability	VERY GOOD Available in most parts of the world. Some coverage gaps in extreme polar regions.	EXCELLENT Truly global coverage, including oceans, polar regions, and remote areas.	STANDARD KIT \$349 – \$599 (One-Time) Accessories (optional): \$50 – \$200	STANDARD PLANS \$65 – \$150 / mo (Varies by provider and plan)	SATELLITE PHONES Slight edge for complete global coverage.
 RELIABILITY DURING DISASTERS Performance when infrastructure is damaged or down	VERY GOOD Works well when local networks are down. Needs clear view of sky; dish can be obstructed by debris, heavy foliage, or buildings.	EXCELLENT Very reliable during disasters. Smaller, handheld, and easier to deploy in any conditions.	STANDARD KIT \$349 – \$599 (One-Time) Accessories (optional): \$50 – \$200	STANDARD PLANS \$65 – \$150 / mo (Varies by provider and plan)	SATELLITE PHONES More resilient in extreme or obstructed conditions.
 SETUP & DEPLOYMENT Ease of getting up and running	GOOD Requires dish, power source, and ~5–15 minutes to set up. Bulkier and needs more power.	EXCELLENT Ready to use in minutes. Small, portable, and battery powered.	STANDARD KIT \$349 – \$599 (One-Time) Accessories (optional): \$50 – \$200	STANDARD PLANS \$65 – \$150 / mo (Varies by provider and plan)	SATELLITE PHONES Faster and easier to deploy.
 POWER REQUIREMENTS Power needed to operate	FAIR High power usage (50–100W typical). Needs AC or large DC power supply.	VERY GOOD Low power usage (1–10W typical). Battery-operated for many hours.	STANDARD KIT \$349 – \$599 (One-Time) Accessories (optional): \$50 – \$200	STANDARD PLANS \$65 – \$150 / mo (Varies by provider and plan)	SATELLITE PHONES Much lower power requirements.
 DATA / COMMUNICATION CAPABILITY Speed and data capacity	EXCELLENT High-speed internet (50–250+ Mbps typical). Supports streaming, large data transfers, video calls, etc.	FAIR Voice optimized. Limited data (2.4 – 492 kbps typical). Not ideal for large data needs.	STANDARD KIT \$349 – \$599 (One-Time) Accessories (optional): \$50 – \$200	STANDARD PLANS \$65 – \$150 / mo (Varies by provider and plan)	STARLINK Far superior for data and internet use.
 PORTABILITY Ease of carrying and moving	FAIR Dish and equipment are bulkier (portable kits weigh 7–20+ lbs). Best for semi-mobile use.	EXCELLENT Handheld devices (6–10 oz). Truly mobile and easy to carry anywhere.	STANDARD KIT \$349 – \$599 (One-Time) Accessories (optional): \$50 – \$200	STANDARD PLANS \$65 – \$150 / mo (Varies by provider and plan)	SATELLITE PHONES More portable and mobile.
 WEATHER RESISTANCE Ability to perform in bad weather	GOOD Performs well in rain and snow. Extreme storms may affect signal. Needs clear view of sky.	VERY GOOD Built to operate in extreme weather, including heavy rain and storms.	STANDARD KIT \$349 – \$599 (One-Time) Accessories (optional): \$50 – \$200	STANDARD PLANS \$65 – \$150 / mo (Varies by provider and plan)	SATELLITE PHONES More resilient in severe weather.
 OVERALL COST (Summary) Upfront + Typical Monthly	FAIR Higher upfront cost; lower monthly for unlimited data (residential plan).	FAIR Lower upfront cost; higher monthly fees, especially for voice and roaming.	UPFRONT COST RANGE \$349 – \$599 Both systems	MONTHLY COST RANGE STARLINK: \$120 – \$200 / mo SAT PHONES: \$65 – \$150 / mo+ (Voice minutes, data, roaming can increase total cost)	TIE Depends on usage and needs.
 BEST USE CASES Where it performs best	• Command posts, base camps, and field ops • Internet connectivity for teams & data-heavy tasks • Semi-permanent or planned deployments	• Mobile teams and first responders • Backup voice communication • Rapid deployment and solo operations	STANDARD KIT \$349 – \$599 (One-Time) Accessories (optional): \$50 – \$200	STANDARD PLANS \$65 – \$150 / mo (Varies by provider and plan)	TIE Each excels in different situations.

RELIABILITY KEY:



EXCELLENT
Very high reliability.
Performs consistently in most conditions.



VERY GOOD
High reliability.
Few limitations in normal conditions.



GOOD
Generally reliable.
Some limitations depending on conditions.



FAIR
Limited reliability.
Performance can be inconsistent.



POOR
Low reliability.
Not recommended for critical use.



KEY TAKEAWAY

Starlink delivers high-speed data and internet capabilities, ideal for command and connectivity needs.
Satellite phones provide simple, portable, and highly reliable voice communication anywhere on Earth, especially in extreme conditions.



IMPORTANT: No system is 100% reliable. Use multiple communication methods and have a backup plan.

EXTENSIVE TRAINING AVAILABLE

TO YOUR CANDIDATE



COMPREHENSIVE
CURRICULUM



HANDS-ON
PRACTICE



EXPERIENCED
INSTRUCTORS



REAL-WORLD
APPLICATION



CONFIDENCE
IN ANY SITUATION



A STRONG NEED.
A CLEAR SOLUTION.



CALL AND SET APART **YOUR** STAKE COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST

Prepared leadership. Reliable communications.
Peace of mind in time of need.



CONNECTING
LEADERSHIP



SUPPORTING
COUNCILS



BUILDING
RESILIENCE



SERVING
OTHERS

SCAN QR CODE
TO LEARN MORE



Resources • Training • Tools • Next Steps



NOW IS THE TIME TO STRENGTHEN OUR COMMUNICATIONS
FOR CHURCH LEADERSHIP AND THOSE WE SERVE.

GET THE HELP YOU NEED IN CREATING YOUR COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK

WE ARE HERE TO SUPPORT YOU IN THIS WORK. WE WILL MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO
ANSWER YOUR QUESTIONS. **ELDER ERIC WERNY (435) 986-4244 /CELL**
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Communications
Specialist Description