

JUST ONE THING

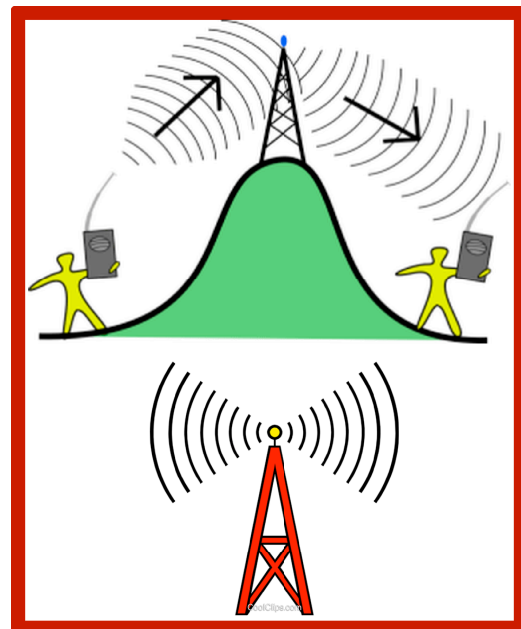
THE EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS NEWSLETTER FOR THE ORANGE CALIFORNIA STAKE

We interrupt this month's regularly scheduled Power of 3 message to bring you an important message about emergency communications.

You may not realize it, but every year in October, our stake conducts an *emergency communications exercise*. As part of this exercise, we practice for a scenario when no phone communications are available. Wards are tasked with checking on as many members of their ward as possible within a short period of time, and then reporting that information back to the stake. The stake then reports that information via ham radio to the region, which in turn reports that information to Church headquarters. Admittedly, not every ward participates every year, but we are hopeful that all wards will participate this year.

Each ward has a different system for checking on members: Some have designated Zone Captains in charge of a specific geographic area, while others use ministering assignments to check on people. Your assignment this month is to find out what system your ward uses and find out who is supposed to be checking on you in case of an emergency. Make sure you have those people's contact information so that you can reach out to them to let them know if you family is okay or if you need help. If you haven't already done so, print up a copy of the stake's FAITH Plan (attached to this newsletter) and add the contact info to the form.

It's also a good idea to get to know your neighbors and other church members who live near you. In the event of a major catastrophe, these are the people you can help, or who can help you, so it's worth it to develop positive relationships now.



IF YOU ONLY HAVE TIME TO DO ONE THING THIS MONTH, DO THIS:

September's ONE Thing

Find out your ward's emergency communication plan.

Bonus: Find out who is supposed to check on you and get their contact info.



"SURPRISE" EXERCISE

You never know when a disaster might strike or what it will be, and this year the wards won't know when the *stake emergency communications exercise* is going to take place. The wards usually get advanced notice on the date and time of the exercise, but this year they won't. Sometime in October, we know not when, the stake presidency will notify bishops that "today is the day" for the exercise. Wards will need to get the word out that the exercise has begun and will need to put their ward plans into action.

Please remember that you are *not* allowed to use phones or emails for this exercise. However, you can text, check on people in-person, use smoke signals, ham radio, etc. --whatever works best that's not a phone call or email. (Note: If it happens to fall on a Sunday, it doesn't count to say you saw somebody at church. You have to make an effort to check on them at their home, not in church.)

In case you're curious, we're allowing texting because sometimes, even when phones are down, texting will still work.



This is our second year of gradually preparing by going through The Power of 3 Member Preparedness Plan.

You can find The Power of 3 plan at <https://www.orangestakelinks.com/>

See the "Emergency Preparedness" tab for previous issues of this newsletter and additional information.

Time For More?

WHEN YOU FINISH "JUST ONE THING" AND HAVE TIME TO DO MORE

EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION REMINDERS

Communication during an emergency is important. Here are some reminders of preparations you can make now to help you in the event of a future emergency. These ideas will help for emergencies large and small, and for personal emergencies, not just major disasters.)

Find the *Just One Thing* and *Time For More?* issues referenced below at:
<https://www.orangestakelinks.com/emergency-preparedness>

Make these preparations now to help you in the future.

- Put your ICE (In Case of Emergency) contacts in your cell phone.

See *TFM?* February 2021



- Complete the Orange Stake Emergency Preparation & Response Plan, AKA "FAITH Plan"

See *TFM?* February 2021

- Create a personal information & emergency contact numbers page for your Go-Binder.

See *TFM?* April 2021 & *JOT* April 2022



- Purchase an emergency radio

See *TFM?* May 2021



- Make an emergency contact information card for your wallet, cars, emergency kits, etc.

See *JOT* February 2022



- Consider purchasing family radios and encouraging your neighbors to get some too.



- Get a ham radio license and radio.

HAM RADIO PLUG



Once upon a time, our stake had about 200 ham radio operators that regularly checked in via radio. If you look at the last 6 months of monthly check-ins, less than 20 ham operators checked in on a regular basis.

When all other communications systems are down, ham radios will usually still work, so we really need more ham radio operators. See below to find out how to get your license.

3 Steps to Getting A Ham Radio License

Step 1: Decide the level of license you want to get.

As a beginner, you'll probably want to get the basic license, which is called the technician license.

Step 2: Study for the exam.

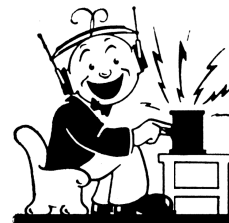
There are lots of resources online. You can buy books, apps, or courses or just search for free resources. It takes about 10 hours of studying. There are 35 questions on the test, taken from the FCC's question pool. You need to score at least 26 to pass. A course might cost about \$35 and a book might cost about \$20

Step 3: Take the test (in-person or online)

You can find a local ham radio club where you can take the test in person, or find an online option.

Here's a link with more info about how to get your license:

<https://hamradioprep.com/how-to-get-your-ham-radio-license-made-easy/>



ATTENTION ALL HAM RADIO OPERATORS & BISHOPS

Please join us each month on the **first Sunday of the month** for a quick radio check-in. Alan McQueen runs our **net at 7:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. on Red 1 (144.310 MHz)**. It's a great chance to test out your equipment. (Bishops, if you don't have a ham license, find someone in your ward who does, and meet with them to check in with the Stake President.) Each ward should be able to report via ham radio.

Editor's Note: The "I" in this newsletter is Laurel Evans, the Stake Emergency Preparedness Specialist. This humble newsletter is my attempt to help myself and others get better prepared for life's emergencies, both big and small. Please join me on the journey and feel free to share this info with anyone and everyone. If you have any questions, comments, suggestions, or corrections, please email me at OrangeStakePreparedness@gmail.com. Happy Preparing! *You can do this!*

Orange Stake Emergency Preparation & Response Plan

Emergency Preparation: "... If ye are prepared, ye shall not fear." Doctrine & Covenants 38:30

- ☐ Be **spiritually prepared**. (Pray. Read the scriptures. Keep covenants.)
- ☐ Implement the **Power of 3 Preparedness Plan**. (Go to www.OrangeStakeLinks.com for details.)
- ☐ Develop a **Family Communication Plan**. (Go to www.Ready.gov and search for "family communication plans.")
- ☐ Periodically **review and practice** your plan, and **update supplies** as needed.

"Remember; when disaster strikes, the time to prepare has passed." - Steven Cyroy

Emergency Response: When disaster strikes, respond with FAITH.

Family first

Where is everyone and how are they?

Assess the situation

What is the nature of the emergency?
Do you need to evacuate or shelter in place?

Inquire after neighbors

How are your neighbors?
Do they need help?

Tell your status

Report the status of your household
to your ward Zone Captains.

Help as needed

First make sure your family is safe, then take care
of your neighbors. If you are able, reach out to
help church or community members.

Key Contact Information:

Your family's out-of-state contact	Contact Info
Your Zone Captain(s)	Contact Info
Your Alternate Zone Captain(s)	Contact Info
Your Ministering Brother(s)	Contact Info
Your Ministering Sister(s)	Contact Info

Ham Radio Frequencies:

Red 1 (144.310 MHz) = Stake Frequency	Red 2 (144.405) = Stake Backup	
Group 1 - Santiago Creek, Palmyra Red 3 (144.480)	Group 2 - Peters Canyon, Red Hill Red 4 (145.570)	Group 3 - Esplanade, Tustin Meadows Red 5 (146.550)