

## Home Station Development

The home stations of licensed amateurs in D10 are our most abundant resource. It is also an invaluable resource for operator self training. Here are the suggested bands and mode of operation that increase the asset value of both the station and the operator who can use the equipment.

- A. A reliable 2M Phone Station. This is important during all phases of activation. Also, a properly installed mobile station is recommended.
- B. Packet TNC. This is important for continuing operator familiarity with the VDEN (Virginia Digital Emergency Network) which is an essential back up to 2M phone. Additionally the Packet TNC can be the basis or TelPac operation using the AX.25 protocol.
- C. UHF. D10 has consistently recommended dual band radios for EOC and shelters. A home station (and mobile) with this same capability is recommended. [Note: The requirements of UHF must be respected in the construction of a home station; short runs of very low loss coax and N-connectors are the order of the day.]
- D. Antenna. Put up the best antenna possible. What works in ordinary conditions may not be enough under the most trying conditions.

## Home Station Operations

Operators at home stations can provide valuable assistance to activated operators. When you indicate your intention to provide assistance, you should continue to monitor the frequency continuously and to notify the activated operators if you need to leave the air. Here are the ways you can be most useful:

- A. Extra Ears. Under trying conditions, you may be able to hear RF communications better than the activated operator.
- B. Relay. Here you can be helpful by monitoring stations outside the normal focus of the activated operators. For example; you may be able to monitor the logistical frequencies of other jurisdictions or the Coastal Emergency Link Net. Relay into a working telephone or internet connection can be really useful.

## Home Station HF

Even a modest HF station has the potential to achieve state-wide coverage. This provides a backup to the 2M repeaters and Packet. Home station operators can provide valuable assistance to activated operators by monitoring and relay (as on VHF/UHF) both locally and state-wide.

- A. HF Phone. During activation beyond the local jurisdictions, the ODEN (Old Dominion Emergency Net) will be active. Operators should be familiar with the nets frequencies and procedures.
- B. HF Digital. The practices of the VDN (Virginia Digital Net) are now the Virginia standard for emergency operations on HF digital. This is a traffic net using NTS format and the robust Chip64 program. The VAEOC is set up for this mode.

- C. 60 Meters. Yes, you should have this capability. In lieu of a Declaration of Emergency on 80M, emergency operations may move to 60M, especially if the emergency is more regional in nature. You should check into the MAEN (Mid Atlantic Emergency Net) and be familiar with operations on this band.
- D. Winlink. While not supporting this infrastructure dependent mode for emergency communications, it can be a valuable form of relay in some circumstances. Members are encouraged to develop this capability.

#### Emergency Power

Of course, your home station should have a safe and reliable form of alternate power. It should be capable of sustaining your home as well as your station assets, including the computer.

#### Checking In (and Out)

If you are not available to go to an EOC or a Shelter during activation; but you can operate from your home, check in to the EOC via the logistics frequency and indicate your capabilities. Check out before you go off frequency.