

Reacting to a Disaster, by Greg Lee, KI6GIG

If you have been involved in disaster situation such as an earthquake, fire or flood you probably already know this, but in a real crisis minds often go blank and just remembering the most basic things about your radio can slip through the cracks. Sometimes just a few well written instructions are enough to jog our memory.

Well, I reviewed my **Go Bag** contents and began to realize that even though things were neatly organized in clearly labeled zip bags would I remember what pieces went with what radio equipment once out of their bags, especially in a field emergency setting of chaos, rush, and confusion?

So here is an example of what I did to try to head off "accidents" due to faulty memory under those circumstances....and also at the next level, that in an emergency, other HAMs I might be working with may need to share some things that I have but that they may not be familiar with....and yes, technically they shouldn't be using my gear without me knowing...but everyone needs to charge batteries...and in an emergency, no power means you are dysfunctional....and I could readily imagine someone seeing the empty charger cradle and thinking....he had a Yaesu that is close to mine, and zapp!

Anyway, I might be re-inventing the wheel, but it seemed to make sense to me to clearly label all my gear....it might be that I am just too new at all of this stuff....and all of your Elmer types know all this piddly stuff and it isn't a problem to you. But when thinking about my mind going blank.....oh well, it works for me, so I am doing it for my Go Bag.

-73-

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"Geography may not change the world, but it will change the way you see it."

See next page.

Clear Labels

Chaos and rushing are often associated with emergencies. It may be hard to remember some picky details such as what batteries fit what charger and what power cord goes to what equipment.

I organized my Go Bag using zip closure plastic bags. But then realized once the contents leave the bag, it may be hard to remember what belongs to what. So I began to label the items. These pictures show the rapid charger for my VX-150.



Top Photo: This is the rapid charger for my VX-150. The charger base and the power cord are separate pieces that I keep in one zip closure plastic bag. In this stored condition it is obvious the two pieces belong together.

Once out of the bag and mixed together with other gear, you have an electronic jigsaw puzzle that would be a challenge to put together in the dark chaos of an emergency.

Middle Photo: On the charge base, I put a red label to remind me the radio must be switched off when charging a battery attached to the radio.

The orange label is a caution note about the kind of batteries (Ni CD and Ni MH) that can be charged in this unit. The green label lists the Yaesu VX models that can use this charger.

I am brand new to amateur radio and have never been in an emergency communications situation. But I imagine in a crunch, other HAMs may need batteries charged. If my batteries are fully charged, it only makes sense to help a "team" member use the charger. But if I am not around, and they are not familiar with the charging unit, an unlabeled charger is an accident waiting to happen.



Bottom Photo: It seems so many pieces of equipment all have their own power unit. If separated from the device, often there is nothing on the power unit that tells you what device it serves. So, I did the obvious thing and labeled it with the device name using the exact words printed on the charging unit itself. So there is no confusion by me or any other HAM that I might be teamed with in an emergency.

