

Emergency Communication

"Go Bag"

Latest Update: 05/18/06

Personal Equipment

Each ECom member is expected to be prepared to respond as effectively as possible to a callout. **No one is expected to ignore personal responsibilities to family or employer, nor unnecessarily risk their welfare!** *However, personal inconvenience or lack of preparation is insufficient reason for not supporting a callout!*

How do I prepare? Put together a "go-bag" of the items suggested in the equipment list shown below. Please understand that you are not expected to stuff your entire ham shack, closet and pantry into a time capsule in preparation for an alternative life style in support of ECom. Rather that you think about the items you do not have and acquire them while there is time and no urgency. The list includes virtually everything you will need to be helpful in an ECom event. We suggest you maintain one "go-bag" with the items that you would need only during a deployment and possibly a second (or it could be just a list) of the items that, when added to the first, will provide you with the personal supplies and radio equipment to make you much more effective and comfortable during an event.

To summarize, don't wait until you are called, to assemble your "go-bag". Do it in advance at your leisure.

The items shown in UPPER CASE are the ones most likely to be needed.

Equipment:

- ECom/RACES/SERVED-AGENCY IDENTIFICATION CARD
- COPY OF AMATEUR RADIO LICENSE
- MOBILE RADIO (dual band if possible)
- HANDHELD RADIO (dual band if possible)
- SPARE BATTERY PACKS (CHARGED nicad and AA)
- HEADSET, SPEAKER-MIC.
The most usable headset in high noise areas will have noise cancellation in the -20db to -30db to be effective.
****DO NOT USE THE VOX OPTION**** on any headset.
- 19IN. MAG. MOUNT/GROUND PLANE ANTENNA (will function on 70cm)
- COAX JUMPERS AND CONNECTORS
- CONNECTOR ADAPTERS (bnc/pl259, bnc/so239, some radios require SMA)
- DUCT TAPE
- SHORTHAND NOTEBOOK, PEN & CLIP BOARD
- WATCH
- MAPS OF THE AREA (Topo and street)!!!
- COPIES OF MESSAGE FORMS
- Compass and/or GPS
- Copy of District Operations Manual
- List of served agency phone numbers in your area (not just your district)
- Boundary-Marking Tape
- Insect Repellent (summer)

Survival Items:

- 3 DAY SUPPLY OF PERSONAL MEDICATION!
- WARM CLOTHING & BOOTS (bright colors for shirts and jackets)
- HAT - (this is IMPORTANT for everyone)
- GLOVES
- SPARE GLASSES (spare contact solutions if you wear them)
- FIRST AID KIT
- N95 MASK / RESPIRATOR
- SUPPLY OF WATER (the warmer your region, the more you need but EVERYONE needs water with them)
- TOILET PAPER/KLEENEX
- Moist Towelette Packets
- SUN SCREEN (winter or summer)
- RAIN SUIT
- ORANGE VEST (for use if your clothing is drab colored)
- Space Blanket
- Plastic ground cover tarp
- Spare shoe laces and some twine
- Wool blanket
- Fanny-pack/Back-Pack
- Sports/Bicycle water bottle
- High energy snacks
- Large trash bags
- Flashlight W/extra batteries
- Whistle

Tools:

- SWISS ARMY - type - KNIFE
- SCREW DRIVER (phillips and flat)
- PLIERS
- SIDE CUTTER
- CRESENT WRENCH
- ELECTRICAL TAPE
- VOM
- Fence Pliers (includes hammer)
- Crimp Tool (includes wire stripper)
- Assortment of crimp connectors, nails, brads, tacks
- 4 or more each of the 4", 8" and 12" plastic cable ties

For public service events:

- COOLER with FOOD & DRINK
- Lawn chair
- Umbrella (sun or rain)

Optional items:

- 3 Wire AC Extension Cord w/2-3 pin adaptor
- AC to 12V power supply
- Soldering Iron w/solder
- 2M Beam Antenna w/Tripod, mast & guy rope
- Nut Driver set
- Folding set of Allen/Torx wrenches

- Zip Cord
- Cash (for pay phones & if power is out)
- Transistor radio
- Binoculars

HF Unique:

- HF rig (12V dc preferred) with:
 - Mic
 - Key
 - Head phones, external speaker
 - Tuner
 - 50+ ft. of RG8X or better
- NVIS antenna: which is NOT a mobile vertical.
 - 75m dipole or 130 ft of wire
 - Insulators
 - 3 Masts, 8ft or more, preferably non-conductive
 - Guy rope
 - Tent pegs for guys
 - Lead weight & 50 ft light line for tossing over branches
 - "Loud" marking tape to warn passers-by of guys, lines.
- Portable Computer with printer
- AMTOR/FACTOR capable TNC (with mailbox if possible)
- Power source (one or more):
 - 12V gel cell 75 A/H w/ charger
 - Vehicle w/ 12V battery & gas
- Portable shack:
 - Shelter tent
 - Table & chair

Marking your Equipment

There are very few people that would knowingly relieve you of your equipment but during an emergency there is a lot of confusion. If you have each piece of your equipment marked with your name and call it will be much easier to ensure your equipment is returned to you at the completion of the event.

Connectors and Your Equipment

● Standardized Connectors

During public service events or emergencies you could easily need to connect your radio to someone else's power supply or someone else may need to connect their radio to your power supply. To facilitate this inter connectivity a standard for power connectors is necessary.

● Anderson Powerpole

- The recommended connector is the Anderson Powerpole 30A (APP-30A).
- The ARRL approved the change to the APP-30A in June of 2000.
- This connector is gender non specific but when assembled per recommendation cannot have the positive and negative polarity reversed. [The recommended configuration is shown here.](#) This connector is rated at

30 amps and is recommended for higher power applications but will work very nicely for lower power situations as well.

- In a size comparison between the previous recommended RS/Molex and APP-30A there is about .020" difference between the two connectors with the APP-30A being the smaller. Or more simply, they are virtually the same size but due to the difference in appearance, the APP-30A looks smaller than .020 inch would indicate but it handles over twice the current.
- The Anderson Powerpole 30A connector is not as readily available as the Molex connector. Thus your group may want to consider purchasing bulk quantities for its members. This will also reduce the cost per connector. One supplier charges \$1.00 per connector, plus shipping, in quantities of ten but also charges seventy five cents per connector, delivered in quantities of 200.
- The manufacturer (with a list of distributors) is at <http://www.andersonpower.com/distributors/US/> (I have had good luck with www.powerwerx.com - W0IPL)

- **Adaptors**

It is recommended that you equip your radios, power supplies and batteries with APP-30A connectors. Since not everyone will use these connectors it would be very helpful for you make adaptor cords (patch cords) made with these connectors and other types. Connections you may want to have available are:

- large auto-type battery clips
- cigarette lighter plugs
- any other connectors that your group has in abundance
- When all else fails - bare wire and wire nuts (last choice)

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High Current Connector - Anderson PowerPole -

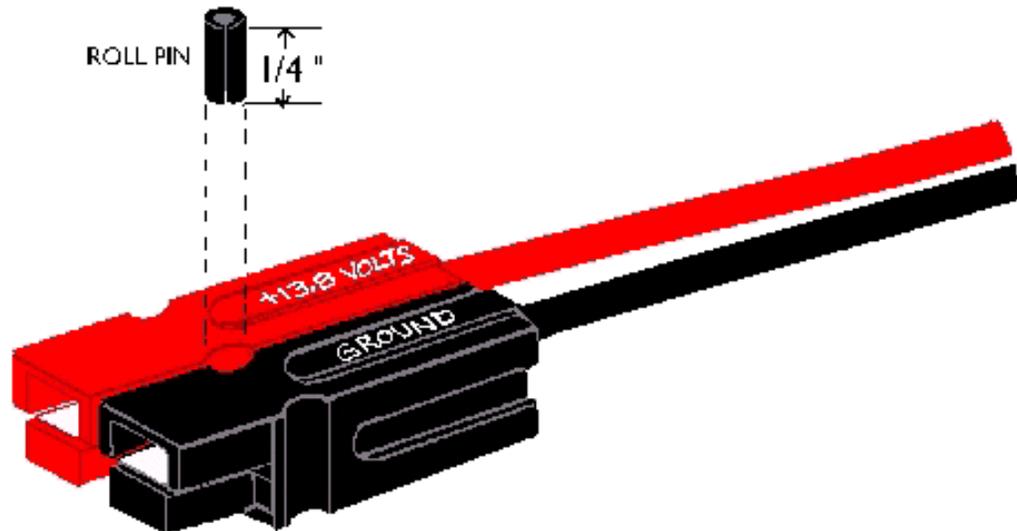


Diagram courtesy the good folks at www.powerwerx.com

Assembly.

This is the 30 Amp connector.

The recommended configuration is shown above. If you take the time to pre-assemble the connector bodies per the pictorial above, as you receive your shipment, you will find it much easier to assemble the connectors for use and there will be no ambiguity in plus minus connections.

When you finish crimping the spade lug to the wire, insure you *re-form the crimped portion to round*. This will allow easy insertion into the plastic connector body. The easiest crimp tool to get is the Gardner Bender GS-88 available at many lumber yards and some electronic supply houses for about \$8 plus tax.

We also recommend soldering the connections.

To assemble the wire/spade-lug and the plastic body, insure you - firmly - press the wire/spade-lug into the plastic body. There will be a distinctive click as the wire/spade-lug locks in to the plastic body.

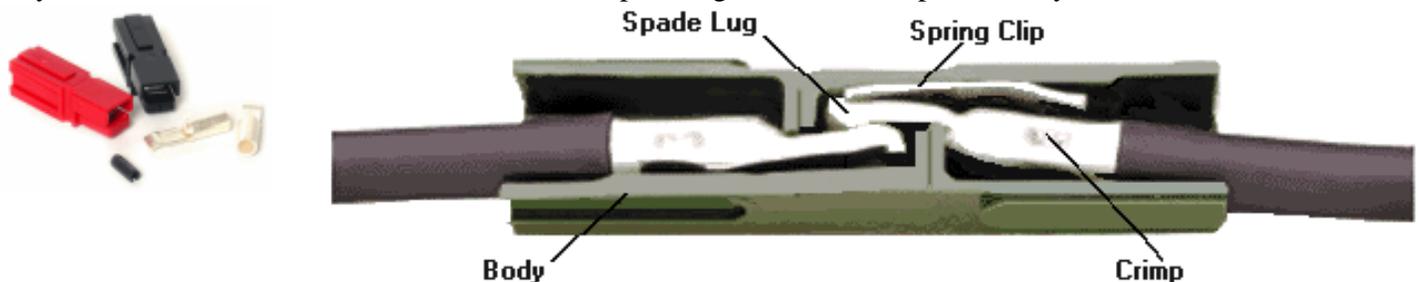


Diagram used with permission of Anderson Interconnect Inc., manufacturer of the Anderson Powerpole connectors.