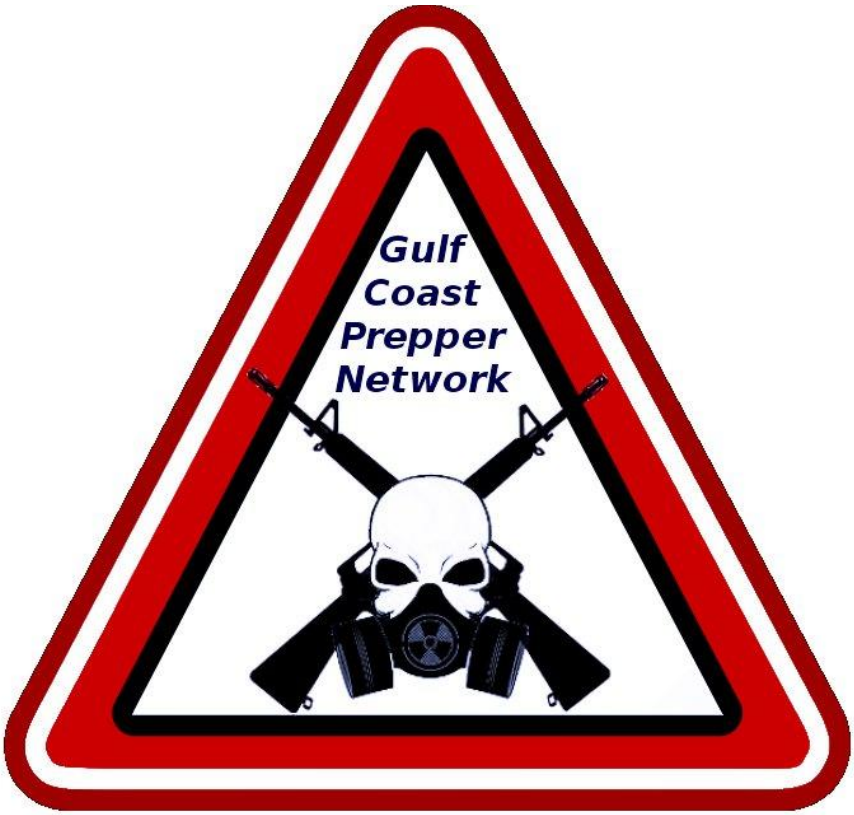

COMMUNICATIONS PLAN

Version 7.01

COMMUNICATIONS PLAN

Note: This communications plan is not intended as the only source for the Ham operator. It has been compiled from the Oath Keepers Comm plan, the AmRRON Comm plan, the ARES Comm plan and others. It contains basic instructions for the non-licensed operator. Licensed Ham operators are encouraged to download and utilize the AmRRON Signals Operating Instruction manual, found in the "Library" section of this website, for use in addition to this manual.

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Foreword

Please take a look at the version number of this manual. There will be many revisions to follow for a number of reasons. The first reason is the fact that “repeaters” sometimes break down and the related frequencies disappear. At the same time other “repeaters” are repaired and placed back on the air providing us with new frequencies. And, it is also the mission of the Gulf Coast Prepper Network to expand our communications network by merging our capabilities with other prepper groups in the area. As other groups join us we will need to incorporate their tactical frequencies and repeaters into this plan.

The ultimate goal is creating and expanding a network where all groups in our area are connected – a network where, regardless of your area, you will have a source of information and intelligence. It will provide us the capability of gathering intelligence from the entire prepper community and disseminating it to all other preppers in the area. With this ultimate goal you can see why this communications plan must be fluid. It will grow and change along with our capabilities. In a nutshell, the purpose of this plan is to provide the Gulf Coast Prepper Network a starting place. This manual will provide us with a system we can use if we have to implement it tomorrow! It gives us something to work with right now!

Communication is one of the most important legs of preparedness and probably the one area where most preppers are least prepared. Information and intelligence are essential during any crisis. Let's say you have to bug out. Wouldn't knowing what roads are open be important? How about knowing the location of any roadblocks or checkpoints? Are armed gangs approaching your neighborhood? You can't make informed decisions if you don't know what is going on. If there is no cellphone service, no broadcast radio and no television, you must have the means to communicate in order to survive. Communications are every bit as important as food and water.

Licensed Ham operators are inherently connected and informed during emergencies when conventional communications are disrupted, but because there are comparatively few licensed Ham operators among the populace, the non-Ham population usually find themselves in the dark. It is not the purpose of this manual to encourage anyone to become a licensed Ham operator, even though obtaining a Technician class license is not that difficult. Rather it is to instruct you on the equipment needed and provide you with the fundamentals necessary to conduct basic communications in a gird-down situation.

If you do decide to obtain your Ham license it will provide you with the opportunity to learn how to operate your equipment and how to properly communicate with other operators before you are forced to do so. To obtain your Technician class license you must pass a 35-question examination and pay a fee of no more than $15. The exam is fairly simple and numerous free study guides can be found online. Your license will be good for 10 years and may be renewed without cost. I'm certain any member of the Gulf Coast Prepper Network who holds a Ham license will be glad to help you. Whether you decide to become licensed or not, every family or group should identify at least one individual to become the communications operator for the group.

Why is obtaining a Ham license not an absolute requirement? Because, in accordance with FCC Regulations, in an emergency and when normal communication systems are unavailable, anyone can use any means of communication without a license:

§97.403 Safety of life and protection of property.

No provision of these rules prevents the use by an amateur station of any means of radio communication at its disposal to provide essential communication needs in connection with the immediate safety of human life and immediate protection of property when normal communication systems are not available.

So, it is possible for you to own a Ham radio and simply hold on to it until it is needed for an emergency. The key will be knowing how to communicate and how to operate your equipment without any practical knowledge. That is yet another purpose of this manual, and everything will be kept as simple as possible. What follows is a crash course in communications.

VHF/UHF & HF

We will only concern ourselves with VHF (Very High Frequencies), UHF (Ultra High Frequencies), and HF (High Frequencies). In the Ham community VHF frequencies fall in the 2-meter band while UHF frequencies fall in the 70-centimeter band. All you really need to know is that both VHF and UHF frequencies are considered “line of sight” frequencies. In other words, when operating at these frequencies the distance you are able to communicate is limited to your line of sight, and what limits your line of sight is the horizon. VHF/UHF radio waves basically travel in a straight line. If your antenna can't “see” the other antenna due to the curvature of the earth you are unlikely to communicate. This makes VHF and UHF ideal for short to medium range communications because you aren't receiving interference from distant stations.

One of the first questions non-communicators usually ask is, “How far will I be able to communicate?” At VHF and UHF frequencies distance depends not so much on the power of your equipment but on the elevation of the antenna. Expanding on the line-of-sight principle, the distance to the horizon for an individual standing on the seashore with his eyes elevated six feet above sea level would be approximately three miles. So would he be able to communicate with a small boat four miles away if his antenna was at his eye level? Well, actually, yes, assuming the person he was communicating with was standing on his boat with his antenna six feet above sea level. His antenna would actually be visible for about a mile and one-half beyond the horizon.

Suppose now that his individual was standing on a hill 100 feet above sea level. His line of sight to the horizon would be over fourteen miles. The antennas for most “repeaters” are located on towers. Suppose a 500 foot tower sits on the top of this 100 foot hill. That radio would communicate with others over 33 miles away. As you can see, it all depends on elevation. All the power in the world will not extend the distance a VHF/UHF radio can communicate beyond the line of sight but elevation of the antenna will extend that line of sight. To operate VHF/UHF Ham radio gear, in other than emergency situations, operators must possess a Technician class FCC license.

HF, on the other hand, is not “line of sight.” HF frequencies can propagate hundreds and even thousands of miles because of something called “Ionospheric Propagation.” While VHF and UHF radio waves

penetrate the Ionosphere, HF radio waves are refracted by the Ionosphere causing them to travel great distances. HF frequencies are ideal for long-distance communications. To transmit on HF radio frequencies, operators must possess a General class FCC license.

What we are going to concentrate on, as our primary method of communication, will be VHF/UHF in the 2-meter and 70-centimeter bands. Then, we'll cover HF separately. VHF/UHF communication will be your primary method of communicating in a grid-down crisis.

Simplex, Duplex, & Repeaters

VHF/UHF transceivers can be operated in two modes – simplex and duplex. Simplex simply means that both the transmitting and receiving station are operating on the same frequency. Duplex means you transmit (talk) on one frequency and receive (listen) on a different frequency. Simplex is primarily used for short to medium range point to point communications. As discussed earlier, the distance you can communicate is limited by your distance to the horizon – your line of sight. Duplex operation, on the other hand, is primarily used for “repeater” operation. By using a “repeater” the distance you can communicate is greatly extended.

A “repeater” is a remote transmitter/receiver that operates in automated duplex mode. It automatically receives on one specific frequency and simultaneously retransmits what is received, on another frequency. Repeater antennas are generally located on towers and operate at a much greater power than hand-held VHF/UHF units. To understand how a repeater operates, consider the following.

Suppose you and the person your are communicating with are both standing on hills that result in your line of sight being 20 miles. If that is the case, 20 miles is the maximum distance you can communicate. Now, let's replace that other person with a repeater. With the repeater's much higher antenna, your radio can “see” it for let's say 40 miles. Of course you might not really be able to see it but your radio can see it. The height of the repeater antenna has extended your line of sight to 40 miles.

So, when you key your radio the repeater picks up your transmission 40 miles away (because of the higher antenna) and instantly retransmits your signal on a different frequency. The retransmitted signal can then be heard by anyone within the 40 mile radius of the repeater antenna. If the person you are communicating with is 40 miles away on the opposite side of the repeater antenna, you can actually communicate with him 80 miles away because you both have a 40 mile line of sight to the repeater's antenna. Where are these repeaters located? They are everywhere! There are over 400 in the state of Alabama alone. Who owns them? They are owned by amateur radio clubs, the ARRL (American Radio Relay League), various emergency management agencies, etc. The vast majority of these repeaters are “open” meaning they may be used by the public (well, the licensed public). In an emergency situation these repeaters will be crucial, but to reach them you must have a radio.

So what is the difference between VHF and UHF? There is very little difference between frequencies in these two ranges. VHF is used by Hams far more than UHF so it is usually much busier. VHF frequencies have the advantage of propagating a little bit beyond line-of-sight providing the user with just a bit more range in many cases. UHF frequencies, on the other hand, are better at penetrating surrounding obstacles. For example, if you are in an automobile, UHF frequencies can better penetrate the enclosure than VHF frequencies. VHF frequencies are more easily absorbed by their surroundings. UHF channels are also less cluttered because they are used less than VHF channels.

Your First Radio

Every prepper must have a means of communications that is not dependent on conventional methods. Your best choice for a VHF/UHF transceiver is a very inexpensive little unit made in China. It is the Baofeng UV-5R, also sold under the name Pofung and a few others. The UV-5R is the backbone of the prepper community and it won't cost you an arm and a leg. A brand-new UV-5R can be found on eBay or Amazon for as little as $25. Typically they will fall in the $30 to $35 range. You want to own at least one UV-5R, and if you can afford it, pick up one for each adult member of the family. Unless you are licensed you are not going to be able to use these units but you can set them aside until the time arises when no license is needed.

The UV-5R is a VHF/UHF dual-band transceiver, meaning it will monitor two different channels at the same time. It is capable of storing 128 different channels and will operate in both simplex and duplex mode.

The next consideration is how your UV-5R is programmed – what frequencies are assigned to what channels and whether they are simplex or duplex. After all, if we are not all on the same frequency your radio is useless and if you don't know the repeater frequencies for your area, the repeaters won't be available to you.

There are three ways to accomplish programming. You can program it manually (most difficult), you can program it using your computer (requires software & cable), or you can bring it to the next meeting and have one of our Hams program it it for you (easiest).

Now, unless you are licensed, keep in mind that you absolutely, positively can not key your radio! The FCC and many other agencies have the means to locate you using radio direction finding. Pressing that push-to-talk button can subject you to some very stiff fines and even imprisonment. You can listen to others on any of the frequencies you like, but other than in a true emergency, you must not key your unit.

UV-5R Controls

Below we will cover the most important controls and then we will discuss programming. Other functions and more advanced features can be discussed in training sessions conducted at regularly scheduled meetings.

On/Off/Volume Control: Knob located on top of unit next to antenna.

Push-to-Talk Button: Located on left side of unit adjacent to orange VFO/MR button. Push to talk and release to listen.

Display Window: The Display Window will indicate the operating frequency (or channel) and which two channels are active.

VFO/MR Button: Located on front of unit directly below display screen. This button toggles the display between showing the frequency and the channel number.

A/B Button: The blue A/B button is located on front of the unit directly below the VFO/MR button. It is used to toggle between the two channels displayed in the display window.

Up/Down Buttons: The Up and Down arrow buttons (below the word Baofeng) are used to scroll through the programmed channels.

A couple of other options you may want to purchase for your Baofeng in order to extend your capabilities are a “Nagoya NA-701” antenna and a AA battery pack. The NA-701 antenna only costs a few dollars and is far superior to the stubby antenna that comes with the unit. The battery pack will allow you to use standard AA batteries if you are unable to charge your unit because there is no power. Both items can be found on eBay or Amazon and neither will cost you an arm and a leg.

UV-5R Initial Settings

Before programming frequencies there are a number of initial settings that must be programmed. Begin by resetting all menu items in Frequency Mode:

1. Press orange VFO/MR button until voice says “Frequency Mode”.
2. Press MENU followed by 40 to reach Menu #40.
3. Press MENU again. Voice will say “Initialization”.
4. Press MENU again to confirm. Once initialized, press EXIT.

Okay, your radio has been completely reset to factory standards. The voice will now be in Chinese. Correct that as follows:

1. Press MENU followed by 14 to reach Menu #14.
2. Press MENU again. (Voice will be in Chinese)
3. Press MENU again and use up/down arrows to display “ENG” (for English).
4. Press MENU again to confirm.
5. Press EXIT.

Initial Settings:

Now we can key in the initial settings. Each menu item is keyed in by pressing MENU followed by the menu number. If display is not as indicated below, press MENU again to select and use up/down arrow keys to select correct setting. Once selected, press MENU to save and then press EXIT. (Always press EXIT after changing a menu item to ensure it has been saved.)

Menu	Setting	Remarks
0	5	Squelch silences receiver when no signal
1	2.5K	Frequency step
2	HIGH	Power output (may be toggled with # key)
3	3	Sampling ratio to recognize received signal
4	OFF	VOX (Voice Operated Transmission)
5	WIDE	Bandwidth
6	1	Display illumination time
7	OFF	Dual watch
8	ON	Beep
9	60	Transmission time-out
10	OFF	R-DCS
11	OFF	R-CTCS
12	OFF	T-DCS
13	OFF	T-CTCS
14	ENG	Language
15	(skip)	Radio ID
16	OFF	Determines which codes are heard through speaker
17	1	Can only be set from computer
18	CO	Scan stops when signal detected and resumes when dropped
19	OFF	Sends PTT ID
20	0	PTT ID sending delay
21	NAME	A channel mode display
22	NAME	B channel mode display
23	OFF	Busy channel lockout
24	OFF	Automatic keypad lock
25	(skip)	Frequency shift direction (set for individual channel)
26	(skip)	Frequency shift amount (set for individual channel)
27	(skip)	Store a memory channel (for storing frequencies)
28	(skip)	Delete a memory channel
29	(skip)	Standby back-light color
30	(skip)	Receive back-light color
31	(skip)	Transmit back-light color
32	TONE	Alarm mode (speaker only)
33	(skip)	Band selection (automatically selected)
34	OFF	Forces selection of transmit frequency in dual watch
35	OFF	Eliminates the squelch tail at the end of a transmission
36	OFF	Repeater squelch tail elimination
37	OFF	Repeater squelch tail delay
38	FULL	Power on message
39	OFF	Roger beep
40	ALL	Resets all menu items to default and erases all channels

Now that the initial settings have been programmed we can proceed to programming the channels. If you plan on bringing your unit to the next meeting – you are done for now. If you wish to program it yourself and have purchased the programming cable, first download the appropriate software for your computer system at **http://chirp.danplanet.com/projects/chirp/wiki/Download**. It's free of charge.

Then, download the Gulf Coast Prepper Network data file found on the PUBlicationS page or at **http://GulfPrep.Net/files/Baofeng.zip**. (The file is in compressed (ZIP) format and will have to be decompressed before use.)

Connect your computer to the UV-5R with your programming cable, open "Chirp" and load the Gulf Coast Prepper Network data file you just downloaded. Next, download the file in your radio by clicking "Radio" followed by "Download From Radio." You now have two files. The reason for downloading your radio file is because there are many different versions of the radio's firmware and one file is not necessarily compatible with the other.

First, highlight all entries on the Gulf Coast Prepper Network file and click "Edit" followed by "Copy." Now place your cursor on the first line of your radio file and click "Edit" followed by "Paste." You will be prompted, "Overwrite Location 0?" Select "All" and the entire file will be transferred. You can now upload your modified file to your radio. Click "Radio" followed by "Upload To Radio." When complete you will have programmed all the channels shown in the below list.

How to Re-Program a Channel

Re-programming a channel looks complicated but it really isn't. You will just be deleting the old frequency, entering the new frequency, entering the offset, entering the shift and entering a tone. Of course it's easier just to bring your radio to the next meeting and have it updated by computer and you can always do that if you prefer.

Press the orange button to enter FREQUENCY MODE.

Deleting the old channel:
1. You must first delete the old channel by pressing the MENU key and then entering 28.
2. Press the MENU key again to select the function and enter the number of the channel you wish to delete.
3. Press the MENU key a third time to confirm deletion. After the channel has been deleted, press EXIT.

Entering and saving the new frequency:
1. Enter the frequency using the keypad. Example: For 123.500 enter "123500".
2. Press MENU and then enter 27 to save the new frequency.
3. Press MENU again to select the function.
4. Enter the channel number you are changing and press MENU again to confirm your entry.

If you are re-programming a Simplex Channel – you are done. If you are re-programming a Repeater, there are a few more steps.

Entering the offset:
1. Press MENU and then enter 26 to program the offset.
2. Press MENU again to select the function.
3. For VHF frequencies (below 300Mhz) enter "00600". For UHF frequencies (above 300Mhz) enter "05000".
4. Press MENU again to confirm your entry.

Entering the shift:
1. Press MENU and then enter 25 to program the shift.
2. Press MENU again to select the function.
3. Next to the frequency on the frequency plan you will see either a "+" or a "-". Press your up or down arrow key to switch your display to either "+" or "-" as indicated.
4. Press MENU again to confirm your entry.

Entering the tone:
1. Press MENU and then enter 13 to program the tone.
2. Press MENU again to select the function.
3. In the column next to the frequency on the frequency plan you will see either a tone or the word "None". Press your up or down arrow key to scan through the tones until you find the correct tone and the press MENU button to confirm your entry. If the word "None" appears in the Tone column next to the frequency, scan tones until you reach "OFF" and press the MENU button to confirm.

That's all there is to it. You have successfully re-programmed an existing channel.

Channels (Frequencies)

National survivalist organizations such as AmRRON, TAPRN, Oath Keepers, etc. have settled on certain frequencies to use in case of a crisis. ARES (Amateur Radio Emergency Service), FEMA, and other emergency agencies also have standard operating frequencies. And finally, the Gulf Coast Prepper Network has selected a couple of frequencies to use for our tactical communications channels.

If your UV-5R has been programmed in accordance with the Gulf Coast Prepper Network Communications Plan it will contain all necessary frequencies you could possibly need for our general area. You will be able to communicate with other Gulf Coast Prepper Network members on our channels, and members of other prepper organizations on their channels. You will be able to use repeaters in your area for longer range communications, and you will be able to monitor communications by FEMA and other emergency agencies to stay informed.

Once your unit has been programmed, when you first turn it on, two channels will be displayed in the display window. The “A” (upper channel) will display “PRITACV” which signifies the “Primary Tactical VHF” channel. This is the primary channel for communications within the Gulf Coast Prepper Network. The “B” channel will display “TAPRN-V”, which signifies “The American Prepper Network VHF” channel. This is the primary channel for non-tactical communications. (The channel number will appear to the right of the channel name.)

You can use the Up/Down buttons to switch your unit to any of the other channels. Unless there is an actual emergency you will rarely (if ever) hear anyone on either of these two frequencies, but they will probably get very busy in a crisis situation.

As programmed, your radio will monitor the top channel displayed in the display window. A “tick-mark” will appear next to the top channel indicating that it is active. If you wish to transmit and receive on the bottom channel, press the “A/B” button. (A tick mark will always appear to the left of the active channel.)

The chart below shows the channels (frequencies) that will be programmed in your UV-5R. You must never transmit on Channel 0. It is the weather channel and is for monitoring only. The channels highlighted in yellow are the primary and secondary tactical frequencies for use by the Gulf Coast Prepper Network and other prepper groups. These will be your go-to tactical communications channels. Keep in mind we are talking about line-of-sight communications.

Monitor the channels highlighted in gray but transmit on them only in a true emergency. These frequencies are normally reserved for rescue operations. The frequencies highlighted in light blue are repeater channels. Use these channels for longer range communications but limit your transmissions as much as possible. Keep in mind that these channels are monitored by a lot of people over a large area and that anytime you key your radio you are potentially giving away your position.

Finally, the single channel highlighted in gold is the Gulf Coast Prepper Network mobile cross-band repeater. It will only be activated in a real-world emergency situation. It will be discussed in more detail later.

In reading the following chart concern yourself only with the channel number, the channel name and the remarks. The other columns are for use by licensed Ham operators or persons who have the ability to program their own units. And remember – it is imperative, unless you are licensed, that you do not key your radio unless a true emergency exists and there is no other means of communication!

In an emergency, grid-down situation most repeaters will drop off the air. The few remaining repeaters will be those with emergency backup power (as noted in the Remarks column below). They will remain on the air when power has been disrupted but even those will eventually fail in a long-term power disruption. While they are on the air they will most likely be reserved for emergency communications by ARES, MARS, EMA, etc. so they will probably only be useful for monitoring for information and intelligence purposes. Your primary links to the outside world will be channel 1, channel 3, and channel 36.

Channel 1 is the Gulf Coast Prepper Network primary tactical channel for point to point communications. An example might be communications within a forest or community area. Channel 3 is the American Prepper Radio Network primary channel, used to communicate with other preppers outside the Gulf Coast Prepper Network. And, channel 36 is the Gulf Coast Prepper Network cross-band repeater channel. The Gulf Coast Prepper Network cross-band repeater will be discussed in more detail following the frequency chart below.

VHF/UHF Frequencies

Ch	Name	Freq	Tone	Remarks
0	WEATHER	162.550	Monitor	Mobile, AL weather alerts only – do not transmit!
1	PRITACV	146.470	Simplex	Gulf Coast Prepper Network Primary Tactical (VHF)
2	SECTACU	446.075	Simplex	Gulf Coast Prepper Network Secondary Tactical (UHF)
3	TAPRN-V	146.420	Simplex	The American Prepper Radio Network (VHF)
4	TAPRN-U	446.025	Simplex	The American Prepper Radio Network (UHF)
5	MOB150	147.150+	103.5	Mobile, AL repeater – Emergency Backup Power
6	MOB300	147.300+	100.0	Mobile, AL repeater
7	MOB345	147.345+	203.5	Mobile, AL repeater
8	MOB470	145.470-	123.0	Mobile, AL repeater – Emergency Backup Power
9	MOB820	146.820-	203.5	Mobile, AL repeater
10	MOB940	146.940-	None	Mobile, AL repeater
11	MOB500	444.500+	123.0	Mobile, AL repeater – Emergency Backup Power
12	CIT225	147.225+	203.5	Citronelle, AL repeater
13	ROB090	147.090+	082.5	Robertsdale, AL repeater – Linked to Channel 15 repeater
14	FOL685	146.685-	082.5	Foley, AL repeater – Emergency Backup Power
15	BAY430	145.430-	123.0	Bay Minette, AL – Linked to Channel 13 repeater
16	LUV120	147.120+	136.5	Lucedale, MS repeater – Linked to Channels 22 & 23
17	VAN110	145.110-	123.0	Vancleave, MS repeater
18	BIL730	146.730-	136.5	Biloxi, MS Repeater
19	GUL150	444.150+	077.0	Gulfport, MS repeater
20	HAT370	145.370-	136.5	Hattiesburg, MS repeater
21	HAT775	146.775-	136.5	Hattiesburg, MS repeater – Emergency Backup Power
22	HAT315	147.315+	136.5	Hattiesburg, MS repeater – Linked to Channel 16 and 23 repeaters
23	POP410	145.410-	136.5	Poplarville, MS repeater – Linked to Channel 16 and 22 repeaters
24	MCH475	442.475+	136.5	McHenry, MS repeater – Emergency Backup Power
25	MCH165	147.165+	136.5	McHenry, MS repeater – Emergency Backup Power
26	WIG270	145.270-	136.5	Wiggins, MS repeater
27	CRE360	147.360+	100.0	Crestview, FL repeater – Emergency Backup Power
28	CRE950	444.950+	100.0	Crestview, FL repeater
29	MIL700	146.700-	100.0	Milton, FL repeater – Emergency Backup Power
30	MIL400	444.400+	100.0	Milton, FL repeater
31	MIL490	145.490-	100.0	Milton, FL repeater
32	NAV200	444.200+	100.0	Navarre, FL repeater
33	PEN760	146.760-	100.0	Pensacola, FL repeater – Emergency Backup Power
34	PEN850	146.850-	100.0	Pensacola, FL repeater
35	PEN700	443.700+	100.0	Pensacola, FL repeater
36	GPRPTR	146.470	446.075	Split – Cross-Band repeater – Use only when activated.
37	GMRS-3	462.6125	Simplex	FRS/GMRS radios, channel 3 – High Power
38	MURS-3	151.940	Simplex	MURS radios, channel 3 – Low Power
39	FEMANET	138.225	Simplex	FEMA Network
40	EMERGCY	146.550	Simplex	National Emergency channel
41	SAR-NET	155.160	Simplex	Search & Rescue channel
42	EMS-NET	155.235	Simplex	Emergency Medical Service channel
43	VHFCALL	146.520	Simplex	VHF National Calling frequency
44	UHFCALL	446.000	Simplex	UHF National Calling frequency

<u>Note</u>: The frequency for channel 0 may be different for your area and may require reprogramming. For example, while the weather frequency in the Mobile area is 162.550, it is 162.400 in the Pensacola area. In the Brewton, Alabama area the frequency will be 162.475 and in the Leaksville Mississippi area it will be 162.425.

Gulf Coast Prepper Network Cross-band Repeater

There are a number of us in the Gulf Coast Prepper Network, myself included, who have the ability to place our own repeaters online – repeaters for use only by our members. The reason they aren't online now is because we don't have access to communications towers, but in a grid-down situation there will be plenty of unused towers (cell phone, radio, tv, etc.)

Channel 36 (GPRPTR) is a "split" frequency channel. In other words, when used, you will be transmitting on UHF and receiving on VHF. The main reason for transmitting on one band and receiving on another is technical, having to do with the repeater's transmitter overpowering its own receiver. A split frequency (or cross-band repeater) also provides a certain amount of security.

On channel 36 you will actually be transmitting to the repeater on the Gulf Coast Prepper Network UHF tactical frequency (channel 2) and receiving on the VHF tactical frequency (channel 1). Because the repeaters are configured to listen for a specific tone (199.5 Hz) before retransmitting, only individuals with their radio programmed to transmit that specific tone will be able to use the repeater. When your radio is tuned to Channel 36 it is automatically configured to transmit the 199.5 Hz tone.

These homegrown repeaters won't pop up on day one of a SHTF event but will go into operation as quickly as possible and could become your primary means of communications as other repeaters drop offline.

Just two or three cross-band repeaters mounted on towers can cover all of Mobile County and as few as half-dozen such repeaters might cover the entire Gulf Coast. Therefore, if you possess an amateur radio license, you might want to consider doing your share by building your own cross-band repeater.

Hams, Setup Your Own Cross-Band Repeater

A simple cross-band repeater can actually be configured using two Baofeng UV-5R radios and a clone cable (clone cables are available on Amazon. They are used to connect the accessory jacks of two UV-5R radios together.) Cross-band operation means that the repeater transmits on one band and receives on another. The purpose of utilizing two bands is to prevent bleed-over from the transmitting unit to the receiving unit. Rather than long runs of cable, the two radios can be positioned on top of a tower or tall building in a waterproof container and with a small solar panel can be completely self-contained.

For our configuration we receive on 446.075Mhz (UHF) and transmit on 146.470Mhz (VHF). The receiving unit is configured not to break squelch unless it receives a 199.5Hz tone. The tone is used to prevent the repeater from transmitting spurious signals or transmissions from non-members. *Members whose radios are programmed with the Gulf Coast Prepper Network frequency plan will use channel 36 to utilize the repeater.*

Both radios are configured for simplex operation. Each radio can use its own antenna, whether the stubby or an external antenna, or, a single antenna may be used with the help of a "duplexer." (They may be configured with emergency backup power using a 10-watt solar panel, controller, and SLA battery.)

1. Program the first UV-5R for receive on 446.075Mhz. Set the receiver CTCSS (menu option #11) to "199.5".

2. Program the second UV-5R for transmit on 146.470Mhz. Enable VOX (menu option #4 by setting it to "5").

3. Connect the two radios together using the "clone cable".

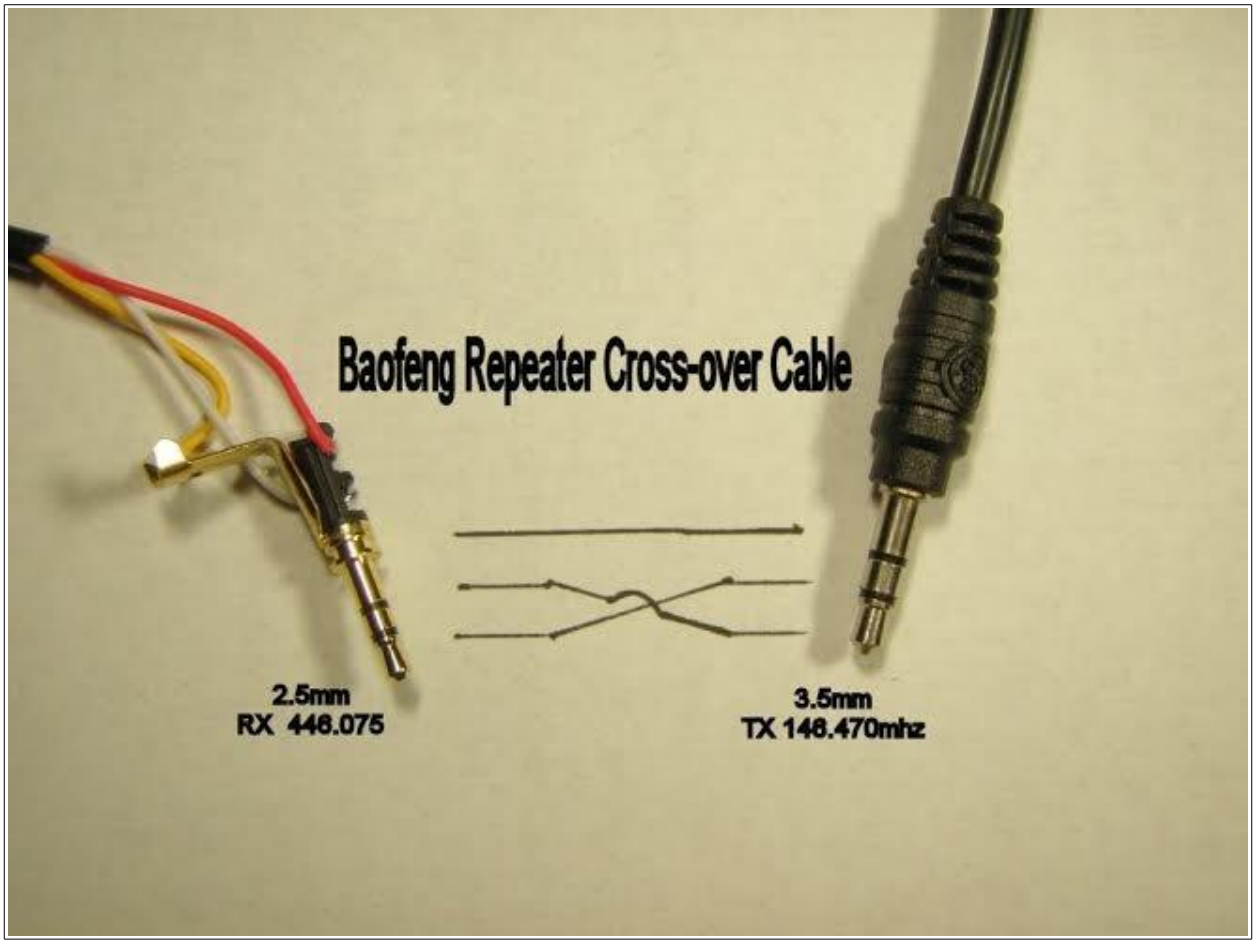
When the receive unit receives a transmission on 446.075Mhz with a tone of "199.5" it will send the received audio signal to the transmit unit. Because VOX has been enabled, when the transmit unit receives the audio signal – it will key the transmitter and rebroadcast the signal.

My own configuration uses the AnyTone TERMN-8R (which allows me to use a single radio rather than two UV-5Rs). I use a J-pole/Slim-Jim antenna, a battery eliminator, which connects to the controller of my 10Watt solar system. My battery is a 12AH/12V SLA. The configuration is completely self-contained in a plastic ammunition can.

If you wish to use a single antenna with two UV-5Rs you will need a "duplexer" which can be found on eBay and Amazon.

If you don't wish to order a clone cable at a cost of approximately $10, it is possible to build your own cable using a 2.5mm and 3.5mm jack....

The jacks are configured as follows:



Call Signs

Licensed Ham operators are assigned a station call sign by the Federal Communications Commission but it should not be used when communicating with Gulf Coast Prepper Network members in a grid-down situation. Gulf Coast Prepper Network members are identified by an emergency call sign consisting of the group designation – "GULFPREP" followed by the two digit number you have been assigned. Find your call sign by logging on to the website and clicking the "Profile" tab or the call signs of other members by clicking the "Roster" tab. (Note that you must log on to the Gulf Coast Prepper Network at least once every sixty days or your access, and thus your call sign, will be removed.)

An example of a correct call sign for a member who has been assigned the number "07" would be, "GULFPREP ZERO SEVEN." The GULFPREP prefix simply identifies you as a Gulf Coast Prepper Network member to other members, and the ZERO SEVEN would be your unique identifier. Never associate your call sign with your name or any other identifying information. Your Gulf Coast Prepper Network call sign is for use only by members!

Making Contact

To call another station, wait until the channel is clear, depress the push-to-talk button and announce the call sign of the station you are calling followed by your call sign. Example: "GULFPREP ZERO ONE this is GULFPREP EIGHT SEVEN over." (GULFPREP ZERO ONE would then respond using his call sign.)

To call any Gulf Coast Prepper Network member who might be in range you would call "GULFPREP ZERO ZERO." GULFPREP ZERO ZERO is a phrase that simply means "Any Gulf Coast Prepper Network Member." Example: "GULFPREP ZERO ZERO this is GULFPREP EIGHT SEVEN over." Keep in mind that if you hear a response such as "This is GULFPREP ZERO ZERO," it is not a Gulf Coast Prepper Network member because no such call sign actually exists. Do not reply to anyone using "GULFPREP ZERO ZERO" as a call sign. It is probably being used by someone with bad intentions. Other prefixes to listen for in addition to "GULFPREP" are "AMRRON" "TAPRN" and "REDOUBTER." In most cases these call signs will belong to another like-minded prepper using a similar call sign scheme.

Note that every transmission is ended with the word "OVER". The word "OVER" indicates that you are through speaking and standing by to receive. The word "OUT" is used to signify the conversation is complete and you are signing off.

Regardless of what you may see on TV or at the movies, the term "Over and Out" is never used. It doesn't even make sense. It would translate to "I am standing by to receive" and "I am signing off" at the same time. In other words, "you are invited to respond but I won't be here to listen".

Cheating

Okay, this section of the manual doesn't really exist. I know, I know, you think you are reading it but it really isn't here. You may be curious as to whether you can get away with using your UV-5R, unlicensed, in normal (non-crisis) times. You may have two radios and want to be able to communicate with your spouse while hiking in the forest or a similar situation.

Well.... Channel 38 (MURS-3) is not actually a Ham frequency. It is a “Multi Use Radio Service” (MURS) frequency and if your radio was programmed with the Gulf Coast Prepper Network software, Channel 38 is configured for “low” power.

Not being a Ham frequency, Channel 38 isn't monitored by Ham operators and because no license is required for MURS radios, it isn't routinely monitored by the FCC. Being that Channel 38 is configured for low power (one Watt) your signal probably won't reach out far enough to be copied by anyone other than another operator in close proximity, and no government body is really interested anyway.

Is it legal? Not really, because your UV-5R isn't approved by the FCC to transmit on MURS frequencies. But, if you are outside the city or in the forest your signal isn't going to propagate far enough to be much of a concern and there is no way for anyone to determine that you are using a UV-5R anyway. It shouldn't be a concern.

Operational Security

You must always be vigilant when communicating via radio in a crisis situation. For instance, never give out your location. Keep in mind that others may be listening on the same frequency and they may not be friendly. Do not give out sensitive information over the air no matter who you are communicating with!

Authentication

In military operations the enemy will often try to infiltrate a communications network to gain intelligence and pass faulty information by posing as a friendly force. It is therefore imperative that communicators have a method of ensuring the person with whom they are communicating is who they say they are.

Authentication is accomplished by one station issuing a challenge to another station. It might be the receiving station verifying that the message is legitimate or the transmitting station verifying that the message has reached the intended recipient. All authentication challenges are in the form of two-letters and require a two-letter response. An example might be “GulfPrep07 this is GulfPrep14, authenticate Charlie Zulu”. On hearing the challenge the station challenged would look at his daily authentication table and issue the correct two-letter response. Daily “Authentication Tables” are published monthly in the form of a booklet. Details on using authentication tables are contained in a separate manual found on the PUBlicationS page.

In an actual crisis, authentication tables are distributed by hand only. They are never placed online or transmitted via telephone or radio. In a non-crisis environment tables are placed online so that members can learn how to use them. In the event of an emergency it may become necessary to use drop points or transfer authentication tables from one person to another.

Cryptography

Where authentication is used to verify you are not communicating with the enemy, cryptography is used to make sensitive messages unreadable to the enemy. The cryptographic method used by the Gulf Coast Prepper Network is known as the “Daily Pad” method. When proper procedures are followed, encrypted messages are “unbreakable.” Details on using daily pads are contained in a separate manual found on the

PUBlicationS page.

In an actual crisis daily pads are distributed by hand only. Like “Authentication Tables,” they are never placed online or transmitted via telephone or radio. In a non-crisis environment daily pads are placed online so that members can learn how to use them.

HF Receivers (Shortwave)

The VHF/UHF communications discussed above will be your primary means of communicating and obtaining information in a grid-down situation. However, if your budget allows, you should consider purchasing one more piece of communications equipment.

Unlike VHF/UHF radios, HF transceivers can be quite expensive and are usually owned only by Ham operators possessing a General class license, but HF transmissions can be extremely valuable to the non-Ham for receiving important information. While HF Ham radios are expensive, shortwave receivers are not. Though you won't have the ability to transmit, a good shortwave receiver will allow you to receive both Ham and commercial HF broadcasts over long distances. Once you have purchased one or more VHF/UHF transceivers, you may want to consider purchasing a shortwave receiver. Decent shortwave units can be found on eBay and Amazon for under $100. The **Kaito 1103** is one such unit that will allow you to monitor shortwave broadcasts from around the world, as well as groups such as Oath Keepers, AmRRON, and ARES. Thee groups disseminate a great deal of survival information on their own broadcast frequencies. Here is where you will find out what is going on, not just locally, but throughout the country.

AmRRON (the American Redoubt Radio Operators Network), for example, gathers information from it's members throughout the entire United States and broadcasts a situation report every six hours. Oath Keepers communicates on their HF networks every hour. Where VHF/UHF is your primary means of local communications – a shortwave receiver can be your lifeline to the nationwide prepper community as a whole.

Below are just a few of the frequencies where essential intelligence is transmitted in emergency situations.

Network	Freq	Remarks
TAPRN	14.342	The American Preppers Radio Network Broadcast
TAPRN	7.242	The American Preppers Radio Network (Apr-Oct)
TAPRN	3.818	The American Preppers Radio Network (Nov-Mar)
OathKeepers	14.345	Broadcasts every Hour at 45 mins after (Pri)
OathKeepers	21.345	Broadcasts every Hour at 45 mins after (Sec)
OathKeepers	3.838	Oathkeepers Daytime Voice Network
OathKeepers	7.238	Oathkeepers Nighttime Voice Network
ARES	3.965	Amateur Radio Emergency Service
ARES	7.243	Amateur Radio Emergency Service
FEMA	5.211	The FEMA Voice Network
SHTF	5.357	The SHTF Network

All broadcasts utilize Single Side Band, meaning the BFO (Beat Frequency Oscillator) on your Shortwave Receiver must be turned on in order to receive them. See your radio manual for instructions on receiving SSB (Single Side Band) signals.

Communication Networks

Communication Networks are predetermined meeting places for communicators. There are numerous networks including practice networks, emergency networks, local networks, regional networks, national networks, etc. What all have in common are a predesignated frequency, day, time, and a "Net Control" operator. The Net Control operator is responsible for coordinating and maintaining order on the Net.

Local "practice networks" will give you an opportunity to listen in to licensed Ham operators communicating with one another and learn how "Nets" function. All the VHF/UHF network frequencies are programmed into your UV-5R and the Net days and times are shown below.

HF Nets can be monitored with your Shortwave Receiver. The more advanced operator can also monitor "Digital Nets" using a Shortwave Receiver and Computer with "Fldigi" software, available free of charge at **http://w1hkj.com/Fldigi.html**.

Practice Networks

Voice

		Time (Central)		Frequency		
Network	**Day**	**Nov-Mar**	**Apr-Oct**	**Nov-Mar**	**Apr-Oct**	**Mode**
Mobile County ARES	Sunday	14:00		Channel 10		FM
Alabama ARES	Sunday	16:00		3.965 LSB		SSB
TAPRN Regional	Sunday	20:00		3.818 LSB		SSB
Hattiesburg ARES	Sunday	21:00		Channel 21		FM
Stone County ARES	Monday	19:00		Channel 24		FM
South Baldwin ARC	Monday	20:00		Channel 13		FM
Citronelle Net	Monday	19:30		Channel 12		FM
Milton Net	Monday	20:00		Channel 29		FM
Mississippi ARS	Tuesday	19:00		Channel 18		FM
Alabama Emergency	Tuesday	19:30		3.965 LSB		SSB
North Baldwin ARC	Tuesday	19:30		Channel 15		FM
Mobile ARC	Wednesday	19:30		Channel 9		FM
AmRRON National	1st & 3rd Wed	19:30	20:30	14.342 USB		SSB
AmRRON Regional	1st & 3rd Thu	18:30		3.818 LSB	7.242 LSB	SSB
Mobile County Net	Thursday	19:00		Channel 11		FM

Digital

TAPRN Digital	1st & 3rd Sun	19:00		7.110 USB		Contestia 4/250
AmRRON National	1st & 3rd Wed	20:30	21:30	14.110 USB		Contestia 4/250
AmRRON Regional	Thursday	19:00		3.588 USB	7.110 USB	Contestia 4/250
ARES Digital	Sunday	14:30	15:30	3.570 USB	7.110 USB	PSK-31

Gulf Coast Prepper Grid-Down Networks

Our ultimate goal is to setup Nets throughout the Gulf Coast using our own cross-band repeaters. In the event of a crisis the local Nets will be used for taking situation reports and disseminating information and intelligence. Because most repeaters will be off the air and those that aren't will be in use by ARES, EMA and other emergency organizations, we will use Channel 36 for our Nets. Net Control will take situation reports and disseminate essential information on Channel 36 every six hours beginning at midnight. He will then turn his radio off to conserve battery power. If you have something to report (road closures, troop movements, etc.) you must contact Net Control at one of the broadcast times.

If upon attempting to monitor Channel 36 you find that there is no Net on the air, look for a Net on Channel 1. If you find there is no Net on Channel 1, **YOU** should assume Net Control duties. Simply tune your radio to Channel 1 and open your Net at midnight, 6AM, noon, & 6PM using the script that follows.

To simplify, in the event of a crisis:

1. Monitor Channel 36 at midnight, 6AM, noon, and 6PM for the latest intelligence broadcast and to submit any intelligence you feel will be helpful to other members.
2. If you find there is no Net operating on Channel 36, listen for a Net on Channel 1.
3. If you find there is no Net on Channel 1 – YOU assume Net Control authority.
4. After conclusion of the Net, turn your radio off to conserve battery power.

Net Control

The duty of a Net Control Operator is to direct and maintain discipline on the Net. No one on the Net is allowed to transmit without the permission of Net Control. The Net Control operator will take situation reports, repeating them as they are received, and disseminate information and intelligence accumulated. The first step for a Net Control operator, after taking any emergency traffic, is to determine who is monitoring the Net by asking for check-ins. Net Control will then share intelligence and ask for situation reports. The whole concept is to gather and share as much intelligence as possible. Following is a typical script for a Net Control operator in a crisis situation:

Net Control Script

This is *(call sign)***,** *(spell phonetically)***. My name is** *(first name)* **in** *(city & state)***, Net Control for the Gulf Coast Prepper Network. This Net will be on the air every six hours beginning at midnight each day on this frequency of (**frequency**)Mhz. This is a directed Net so please standby. This is Net Control,** *(call sign)***.**

Any stations with emergency or other high-priority traffic please come now.

(pause for emergency traffic)

If you need to pass emergency traffic at any time during this net, please notify Net Control and your traffic will be handled accordingly. At this time I will take check-ins. Please report with your call sign, first name, and general location. This is *(call sign)***, Net Control. Check-ins come now.**

(pause for check-ins)

If there are no further check-ins, all stations please standby. *(pause)*

(make announcements and share any intelligence or information)

Are there any other stations on the Net with announcements for situation reports? If so, please come now.

(take all situation reports & announcements and repeat them for everyone on the Net)

Are there any further announcements or situation reports? *(pause)*

This is *(call sign)***, Net Control for the Gulf Coast Prepper Network. This Net is now closed. It will next be back on the air at** *(time)***. We now return this frequency of** *(frequency)***Mhz to normal use. This is** *(call sign)***, Net Control, signing off.**

Other Emergency Networks

In an emergency situation or catastrophic event a number of agencies implement their emergency communications plan to disseminate information and coordinate efforts. These agencies include FEMA, ARES, RACES, Oath Keepers, AmRRON, TAPRN, and the Gulf Coast Prepper Network. Monitor the below frequencies for information/intelligence during catastrophic events:

VHF/UHF Emergency Nets:

ARES/RACES assumes net control of the following channels/frequencies during an emergency:

Alabama (Baldwin County): ROB090 (Channel 13)
Alabama (Mobile County): MOB940 (Channel 10)
Alabama (Mobile County): MOB500 (Channel 11)
Florida (Escambia/Santa Rosa): MIL700 (Channel 29)
Florida (Okaloosa County): CRE360 (Channel 27)
Mississippi (Harrison County): BIL730 (Channel 18)
Mississippi (Stone County): WIG270 (Channel 26)
Gulf Coast Prepper Networks: (Based on your locality)
FEMA: FEMANET (Channel 39) during catastrophic events.
And... monitor all frequencies listed above under “HF Receivers (Shortwave).”

Monitor but do not transmit on any of the above frequencies unless invited to transmit by the Net Control station. It is the responsibility of the Net Control station to maintain order on the network.

The Channel 3 Program

The Channel 3 Program is directed at those members who do not own a VHF/UHF Ham radio. If you own an FRS radio (Family Radio Service), GMRS radio (General Mobile Radio Service), MURS radio (Multi-Use Radio Service), or CB radio (Citizen Band) – you may still be able to communicate to some extent.

AmRRON (the American Redoubt Radio Operators Network) devised the Channel 3 program to be activated in grid-down situations. It is nowhere nearly as effective as Ham VHF/UHF or HF communications but it may provide a link to the outside world if you are in range of other preppers or an AmRRON member.

In a grid-down situation, all AmRRON and Gulf Coast Prepper Network Ham operators monitor channel 3 on all the radios listed above, every hour on the hour for a two minute period, before and after the hour. You can attempt to make contact using any of the above units on that unit's channel 3. Just call “AMRON XRAY” to establish contact. If an AmRRON operator is in range, he/she will respond, take reports, and share information. On your UV-5R, GMRS channel 3 is programmed in channel 37 and MURS channel 3 is programmed in channel 38.

If you are experiencing a true life-threatening emergency and are unable to raise anyone on channel 3, switch to channel 1 on your device. FRS/GMRS channel 1 is the national SOS channel. It is monitored by the American Red Cross, CERT (Community Emergency Response Teams), EMCON, and other emergency services.

Scanner Frequencies

While the UV-5R is the most important piece of communications equipment you can own, and the addition of a shortwave radio receiver will enhance your ability to gather additional intelligence, there is one more piece of equipment you should have in your communications arsenal if you can afford it – a scanner. A scanner is used to monitor police, sheriff, fire, medical and emergency responder frequencies. A scanner can be invaluable in providing you with critical information on what's going on in your immediate area and used models can be found on eBay for as little as $25 to $30.

The acquisition of a UV-5R should not be neglected to acquire a scanner. Like the shortwave receiver, it is just another tool in your communications arsenal.

Following are scanner frequencies covering Mobile and Washington Counties in Alabama:

City/County (Band 1)			State (Band 2)			Federal (Band 3)		
Ch	Freq	Use	Ch	Freq	Use	Ch	Freq	Use
1	856.2375	---	41	158.7900	Highway Patrol	81	167.5625	FBI
2	856.7625	---	42	159.2100	Highway Patrol	82	173.1000	FBI
3	857.2375	---	43	154.8150	Highway Patrol	83	173.1500	FBI
4	857.7625	---	44	155.4450	Highway Patrol	84	155.4750	National Law
5	858.2375	---	45	155.0100	Statewide Law	85	138.2250	FEMA
6	854.6125	---	46	453.4000	Emergency Ops	86	155.3400	National Ambulance
7	854.7375	*Mobile County*	47	154.1075	Search & Rescue	87	146.5500	National Emergency
8	855.6625	*EDACS*	48	155,1600	Search & Rescue			
9	856.3375	*System:*	49	158.9175	Search & Rescue			
10	856.8875	*Channels*	50	30.1000	National Guard			
11	856.4375	*1 through 24*	51	30.5000	National Guard			
12	857.4375	*utilized by*	52	34.9000	National Guard			
13	858.4375	*Mobile and*	53	163.4875	National Guard			
14	851.4375	*Washington*	54	39.4600	State Police			
15	852.4375	*Counties*						
16	852.9125	*(Law, fire, &*						
17	853.4375	*public service)*						
18	853.9125	---						
19	851.1750	---						
20	851.8500	---						
21	853.8250'	---						
22	853.5500	---						
23	851.3500	---						
24	853.7750	---						
25	851.0125	Tactical 1						
26	851.5125	Tactical 2						
27	852.0125	Tactical 3						
28	852.5125	Tactical 4						
29	853.0125	Tactical 5						
30	453.6000	Emergency Alert						
31	155.2350	Emergency Med						

Amateur (Band 4)			FRS/GMRS (Band 5)			Prepper (Band 6)		
Ch	Freq	Use	Ch	Freq	Use	Ch	Freq	Use
121	147.2250	Citronelle	161	462.5625	FRS-1	201	146.4200	TAPRN VHF
122	146.6850	Foley	162	462.5875	FRS-2	202	446.0250	TAPRN UHF
123	147.1500	Mobile-1	163	462.6125	FRS-3	203	33.4000	SHTF Low
124	147.3450	Mobile-2	164	462.6375	FRS-4	204	42.9800	Prepper Low
125	145.4700	Mobile-3	165	462.6625	FRS-5	205	51.0000	Prepper 6M
126	146.8200	Mobile-4	166	462.6875	FRS-6	206	146.4700	Gulf VHF Tac
127	146.9400	Mobile-5	167	462.7125	FRS-7	207	446.0750	Gulf UHF Tac
128	444.5000	Mobile-6	168	467.5625	FRS-8			
129	147.0900	Robertsdale	169	467.5875	FRS-9			
130	147.1200	Lucedale	170	467.6125	FRS-10			
131	145.1100	Vancleave	171	467.6375	FRS-11			
132	146.5200	2m Calling	172	467.6625	FRS-12			
133	29.6000	10m Calling	173	467.6875	FRS-13			
134	52.5250	6m Calling	174	467.7125	FRS-14			
135	446.0000	.70m Calling	175	462.5500	GMRS-1			
			176	462.5750	GMRS-2			
			177	462.6000	GMRS-3			
			178	462.6250	GMRS-4			
			179	462.6500	GMRS-5			
			180	462.6750	GMRS-6			
			181	462.7000	GMRS-7			
			182	462.7250	GMRS-8			
			183	151.8200	MURS-1			
			184	151.8800	MURS-2			
			185	151.9400	MURS-3			
			186	154.5700	MURS-4			
			187	154.6000	MURS-5			

Other Gulf Coast County Scanner Frequencies:

Baldwin County, AL scanner frequencies: ***http://www.radioreference.com/apps/db/?ctid=2***.
Escambia County, AL scanner frequencies: ***http://www.radioreference.com/apps/db/?ctid=27***.
Conecuh County, AL scanner frequencies: ***http://www.radioreference.com/apps/db/?ctid=18***.
Escambia County, FL scanner frequencies: ***http://www.radioreference.com/apps/db/?ctid=332***.
Santa Rosa County, FL scanner frequencies: ***http://www.radioreference.com/apps/db/?ctid=372***.
Okaloosa County, FL scanner frequencies: ***http://www.radioreference.com/apps/db/?ctid=361***.
Jackson County, MS scanner frequencies: ***http://www.radioreference.com/apps/db/?ctid=1426***.
Harrison County, MS scanner frequencies: ***http://www.radioreference.com/apps/db/?ctid=1420***.
George County, MS scanner frequencies: ***http://www.radioreference.com/apps/db/?ctid=1416***.
Stone County, MS scanner frequencies: ***http://www.radioreference.com/apps/db/?ctid=1462***.

Plan Implementation

Stage 1 – SHTF (commencement of a catastrophic event):

1. Log on to the Gulf Coast Prepper Network website for information and intelligence.
2. Maintain readiness by monitoring television and radio as well as emergency communications channels, scanners, and shortwave radio for vital information.
3. Gather intelligence by monitoring the Gulf Coast Prepper Net in your area and communications networks listed above under “Other Emergency Networks”.
4. If cellphone service is overwhelmed communicate via text messages, which will normally get through when a voice call will not, or use email if Internet service is available.

Stage 2 – Grid-Down (disruption to communications or power grid):

1. Continue to gather intelligence by monitoring Channel 36 and/or Channel 1 in your area and the communications networks listed above under “Emergency Networks”.
2. Monitor Channel 36 and/or Channel 1 at midnight, 6AM, noon and 6PM to exchange information and intelligence of value to other preppers.
3. If there is no Net operating on Channel 36 or Channel 1 – YOU establish a Net and assume Net Control for your area on Channel 1. Open the Net every six hours beginning at midnight utilizing the script found above under “Net Control”.

Stage 3 – TEOTWAWKI (complete breakdown of infrastructure and rule of law):

1. Bug-out/Evacuate should it become necessary (martial law, road closures, or community threats).
2. Use back roads if highways are jammed or blocked and avoid intercity areas.
3. Continue to gather intelligence by monitoring the Channel 36, Channel 1, and communications networks listed above under “Emergency Networks”.
4. If you don't have your own bug-out location proceed to the Gulf Coast Prepper Network bug-out location (see Emergency Action Plan) and when in range, make radio contact on the Primary Tactical Frequency (PRITAC) Channel 1. If all you have is a CB, FRS, GMRS, or MURS radio, try to make contact on FRS/GMRS/MURS/CB channel 3.
5. Maintain operational security – remove batteries from cellphones, do not divulge your location over the air, and limit radio communications to the greatest extent possible.

In Conclusion

The ability to communicate in a grid-down situation is every bit as important as water, food, shelter, medical supplies and all the rest of your preps. Without communications – you are alone and at the mercy of your surroundings. Communications are absolutely essential in order to make informed decisions that may effect the lives of you and your family.

Don't wait a minute longer. If you don't already own a VHF/UHF Ham radio such as the UV-5R – order one today. Charge it when it arrives and bring it to the next meeting where it can be programmed. Also consider purchasing a shortwave receiver if you financial situation allows you to do so.

Once you are equipped, check out your equipment now and then by monitoring one or more of the practice networks, keep your batteries charged, and maintain a state of readiness. You may even want to consider obtaining that Technician class Ham license. It is neither difficult nor expensive and will allow you to actually use your equipment before the lights go out.

License or no license, if you are properly equipped when the “S” actually does “HTF” – you will be truly prepared. Your equipment will give you the ability to gather intelligence and make informed decisions and in group situations it will give you the ability to communicate on a tactical basis. Your communications equipment will be your ears when the world goes silent.

Revisions

The current version of the manual is indicated on the cover page. Major changes to the manual are indicated by a larger whole number (the number preceding the decimal). For example, version 2.00 will indicate that the manual is completely different than version 1.07. In this case you will need to replace your entire manual with the newer version.

The decimal portion of the version number indicates a minor change. An example would be version 2.02 as compared to 2.01. When you note a decimal revision later than the version you have, the only changes will be to either frequencies or networks. Any changes will be noted here, on the last page of the manual. Simply replace the individual pages that have changed. Now that we have established a fairly stable Frequency Plan, between this manual and the Communications page on the website, future revisions should not often be required.