

To whom it may concern,

I feel that the proposed changes eliminating the need for morse code knowledge is a serious mistake.

From an emergency communications point of view the simplest most reliable form of communications, when all else fails is still morse code. Studies have found that morse code(cw) signals can cut through interference, both natural & man made (i.e in the aftermath of a nuclear exchange) whereas other signals, whether single sideband or frequency modulation cannot. For the same given amount of power CW signals reach farther, are less susceptible to interference & being a universal language, are much more effective than voice communications. Also, in an emergency, it's much easier to build a simple CW transmitter than a single sideband radio. But, all of this is pointless if there are no operators who know morse code to begin with, which is the eventual effect this proposal will have. We live in a post 911 world. When the next terrorist attack occurs amateur radio will be there, as it was in NYC providing communications when everything else fails. We need CW to so that when the next widespread disaster occurs we can provide effective emergency communications. Please don't tie our hands.

Teresa Sanders

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Secretary

Alabama Emergency Response Team