

In the matter of docket # 06-119, I would like to urge the Commission to adopt the proposal to allow for STA within Disaster Areas for the Amateur Service. During Katrina this was done in some instances to allow the use of HF frequencies by amateurs not licensed to use those bands. With the absence of VHF/UHF infrastructure in some areas, HF provided a needed service. Making this a practice could save lives, and appears to be a worthy change.

Another item mentioned in terms of communications repair workers was the need for standardized FCC credentials, possibly after the completion of a NIMS course. The need for amateur operators in EOC's at the local and state level led to volunteers from other states serving in the disaster area. In almost all cases their credentials, if any, were for their local area agencies, not for the agencies they wound up serving. With local and state agencies rightly concerned about who they allow into their EOC's and who they allow access to sensitive information, the FCC should consider a similar credential for amateur service personnel who have completed the similar NIMS training and may find themselves working far from home.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.