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Public Comments on Amateur Radio Service Communications During Government Disaster Drills:=====

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Submitter Info:

first_name Herb

last_name Pettit

address1 1600 Barnes Mill Rd

city Richmond

country United States

us_state KY

zip 40475

company

I would like to voice my support for this rule change. Emergency preparedness relies on drill and practice to maintain competency to function in the event of an emergency. Many individuals (amateur radio operators) that play a vital role in emergency preparedness are employed by government agencies and hospitals. Many government entities and hospitals rely on amateur radio as their second or third line of communication. It is imperative that in an emergency when primary communications have failed these amateur radio operators be prepared and trained to provide communication. Under the current rules it is difficult to maintain this competency. I understand the necessity to maintain

amateur radio as a volunteer program and that it needs to not be taken over by these entities. This rule change will not allow this to happen, but will provide allowances for preparedness and training.

Thank you, Herb Pettit