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

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"I am the Director of the Local Health Department and one of our mandates is for emergency preparedness. Communications is always at the top of our planning topics each year. Redundancy for disaster communications is vital to sound planning. In the 2009 severe ice storms that impacted most of the state many of our primary communications systems failed with extended power outages and ice that damaged antenna infrastructures. Our area is rural and we need all backups in disaster planning. No one in this business expects to use these resources on a daily basis, but in a disaster HAM radio has repeatedly demonstrated that it is often the vital communications link of last resort - and that can save lives. Success of any preparedness program depends on testing and exercises, and this includes our

amateur radio systems and personnel. We support the FCC rule change. Thanks for your consideration in this matter."