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

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The Kentucky Hospital Association (KHA) works closely with its hospital, healthcare and public safety partners to improve the readiness of our emergency preparedness system. 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. 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 applaud and support the FCC rule change.