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

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As a member of senior management and being responsible for emergency preparedness coordination at our Medical Center, we have placed a great deal of reliance upon HAM radio as a redundant communication vehicle to help assure the support of our care needs during disaster situations. Being in rural eastern Kentucky, we have experienced several events where normal lines of communications have failed and we were without essential communications infrastructure. We have invested in HAM radio back up and have supported the training and licensing of several of staff members to help assure that this communications backup system will be there when tragedy strikes, as it has many time due to ice storms, floods, and severe wind events. Our medical center is the principal referral hospital for a

rural population of nearly 160,000 persons, and our safety and assurance of operation is essential to the protection of these many citizens. Please allow the participation of our staff in preparedness drills to help assure that our HAM radio system will be there and operable when we need it, and we know from past history that we will need this tool for our continued operation. Thank you!