

I oppose the use of encrypted communication(s) in the Amateur service. I have only been able to find a single sentence document here on the FCC web site, but other sites report that the NPRM is based on HIPAA, medical supplies, movement of personnel etc. NONE of this supports encryption. Even with encryption, it would be nearly impossible to be in compliance with HIPAA via amateur radio. The logistics of natural disasters and severe weather are not military secrets. The movement of public employees while on the clock is not a secret. Seeking the use of large equipment is not a secret. Asking for antibiotics or analgesics is not a secret. You can provide modicum of privacy by choosing your words carefully and not using names. No encryption required.

Keeping the public in the dark may only serve to REDUCE the available assets that might be brought to bear during an emergency.

The logistics of creating, protecting, screening and establishing distribution of the encryption will be an administrative nightmare; not to mention the hardware and determining which amateurs are allowed to encrypt versus those who are not allowed to encrypt (and when). You would be creating a new agency manned by volunteers operating without oversight or peer review. One of the best parts of amateur radio is that it is self policing and that aspect of the hobby will be lost during encrypted radio work.

Having had a fair amount of experience with encryption while on active duty, I do not recall any search and rescue or public service operations that were conducted while "secure". The burden of encryption outweighs any possible benefit.