

## **SELECT THE MODE AND BAND TO SUIT THE NEED<sup>1</sup>**

It is a characteristic of all amateurs to believe that their favorite mode and band is superior to all others. For certain specific purposes and distances, this may be true. However, the merits of a particular band or mode in a communications emergency should be evaluated impartially with a view to the appropriate use of bands and modes. There is, of course, no alternative to using what happens to be available, but there are ways to optimize available communications. Long experience has developed the following advantages:

### **CW Mode**

- Less QRM in most amateur bands.
- Secrecy of communications--contents of communications are much less likely to be intercepted by the general public to start rumors or undue concern.
- Simpler transmitting equipment.
- Greater accuracy in record communications.
- Longer range for a given amount of power.

### **Voice Mode**

- More practical for portable and mobile work.
- More widespread availability of operators.
- Faster communication for tactical or "command" purposes.
- More readily appreciated and understood by the public.
- Official-to-official and phone-patch communication.

### **Digital Modes**

- Advantages (1) and (2) of CW, advantage (2) of voice mode, plus greater speed in record communication than some of the other modes, and--in most of these modes--error detection. In addition, digital modes offer the potential for message store-and-forward capability from within the disaster site to the "outside world." Finally, packet provides the capability of "digipeating" messages from point A to point Z via numerous automatically-controlled middle points.

The well-balanced disaster organization will have CW, phone, and digital mode capabilities available in order to utilize all of the advantages. Of course, one must make the best use of whatever is available, but a great deal of efficiency is lost when there is lack of coordination between the different types of operation in an emergency. Absolute impartiality and a willingness to let performance speak for itself are prime requisites if we are to realize the best possible results.

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1 Information taken from the ARRL web