□□ Start Here — Emergency Communications Guide

This book covers using LoRa mesh for emergency preparedness and disaster response - from personal go-bags to neighborhood networks, ARES/RACES integration, and active disaster operations.

> ⚠ **Read this first — what mesh can and cannot do.** LoRa mesh (Meshtastic and MeshCore) is a **supplemental, best-effort communications layer**. It is **not guaranteed to deliver messages** — there is no end-to-end delivery guarantee, the shared half-duplex channel can saturate under load, and coverage depends on powered relay nodes being in range and surviving the event. It is **never a substitute for 911, NWS/official alerts, or licensed amateur/voice nets**. A mesh ACK or green checkmark is a best-effort radio acknowledgment, not proof a human received or will act on your message.
>
> For any life-threatening emergency, use 911 or voice radio with confirmed receipt *first*; use mesh as a fallback when those are unavailable. The guidance in this book assumes mesh runs **in parallel with** primary systems, not in place of them — always keep a confirmed-receipt backup for anything life-critical.

□□ Quick Start by Role

- **Individual prepper / first responder:** Building a Go-Bag Node Kit
- **ARES/RACES ham operator:** Mesh Networking in ARES
- **Neighborhood / community organizer:** Building Neighborhood Disaster Preparedness Networks
- **Emergency manager:** Integrating with Served Agencies

□□ What's In This Book

Emergency Preparedness Basics

- Why LoRa Mesh for Emergency Comms
- Building a Go-Bag Node Kit
- Pre-Deployment Checklist
- Pre-Positioning Mesh Infrastructure for Disasters

Disaster Scenarios

- Wildfire Communications
- Earthquake Response
- Flood and Severe Weather Response
- Mesh Communications During Active Disasters
- Deploying Mesh Networks in Disaster Scenarios

ARES, RACES, and Served Agency Integration

- Mesh Networking in ARES
- Integrating with Served Agencies
- ICS/NIMS Terminology for Mesh Operators
- Go Kit Building for Mesh Nodes
- Net Control Operations for Mesh Networks

Winlink and Digital Integration

- Winlink and LoRa Mesh: Complementary Systems
- Integration with Winlink and APRS
- Building a Meshtastic-to-Internet Bridge

Training and Exercises

- Running a Mesh-Enabled EMCOMM Exercise
- Running a Mesh Communications Exercise
- Training New Operators on Mesh Equipment

➡ Related Books

- Starting a Community Mesh - Building the network before the disaster
- DIY Build Guides - Go-bag node hardware builds
- Getting Started - Ham radio licensing for emcomm operators

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