

☐☐ 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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