



# EDC Pistol Training News

*Every Day Carry training to safely and effectively save lives*

## Quotes of the Month

“We are defined by what we tolerate.” - Marilyn Carlson Nelson

“Evil preaches tolerance until it is dominant, then it tries to silence the Good.” - Archbishop Charles J. Chaput

## Course Updates

Tim Herron returns March 2022. Only 7 seats left. Check our website to make a deposit.

We continue to offer private 1:1 and small group courses, tailored to your needs.

## EDC Pistol Competition

Top score will be awarded **\$250 cash** prize

Saturday, **May 22** | 08:00 to 12:00

\$100 entry fee

Homestead Training Center

Three 50 round courses of fire

Enroll here:

<https://www.edcpistoltraining.com/edc-pistol-competition>

## PACE Plan for Comms

One silver lining to 2020 is it gave us an opportunity to pressure test our contingency plans and preparations.

Whether related to food, water, security, medicine, electricity, financial, or other essentials (yes, even toilet paper!), we discovered what worked, what didn't, and what could have been better.

During this period, it became clear the one contingency I failed to adequately prepare for was Communication. While we never lost communications in 2020, I became acutely aware that had our power, communication, and transportation infrastructures failed at scale and for any length of time, my family would be isolated from the world in a bad way.

In the European Dark Ages (476 to 1,000 AD), the average person never traveled more than 3 miles from their home during their short lifetime. Will this be us when power, roads, and communications are either down for any length of time, or worse . . . controlled by bad actors? Regrettably, for the 99.8% of Americans (actual number) who have neither amateur radio licensing nor the requisite skills, this will be the case.

Being able to freely transmit and receive voice and data information on your own terms is even *more critical* during short, mid, and long term crisis events than it is during normal times. It doesn't matter if these events are man made or natural, intentional or accidental, or if the crisis is simply bad actors controlling communications: if we don't know what's going on and cannot communicate with loved ones and friends, then we and our neighbors are alone on our street, isolated from the world while being uninformed or misinformed.

This is where having a PACE plan for communications comes in. PACE stands for Primary - Alternate - Contingency - Emergency. Just like with food, water, shelter, medical, power, and security, communications is something that has to be planned for, trained for, and routinely practiced in advance of any event. Most EDC readers own and carry guns for the contingency of having to use it; this thinking is no different when it comes to communications.

Fortunately, we have a solution in the form of amateur radio (aka HAM), which offers many options and capabilities some of which are infrastructure dependent, some which are not, and some of which allows licensed operators 2-way communication with non-licensed operators.

We will use my personal PACE comms plan as an example. Note that your PACE plan may vary, depending on your lifestyle, needs, resources, people, and overall planning.

<b>PRIMARY</b>	
<b>Unlicensed</b>	<b>Mobile Phone (voice, text, email, internet)</b>
<b>Licensed</b>	
<b>ALTERNATE</b>	
<b>Unlicensed</b>	<b>Home Wi-Fi (VOIP, email, text, internet)</b>
<b>Licensed</b>	<b>add DMR hotspot</b>
<b>CONTINGENCY</b>	
<b>Unlicensed</b>	<b>1) AM/FM/Local TV (receive only)   no ability to transmit</b> <b>2) Satellite Phone</b>
<b>Licensed</b>	<b>1) DMR Repeater for 1:1, SMS, and TG (primary Florida TAC 31120; alternate TAC 313 to TAC 319)</b> <b>2) Analog Repeater (primary SARNET; alternate any other available repeater)</b> <b>3) Simplex LOS (primary Friends &amp; Family pre-designated DMR; alternate National VHF/UHF)</b> <b>4) Vara HF WinLink for asynchronous emails either peer to peer, or to the non-licensed via RMS gateway</b>
<small>* Use Wilderness Protocol for each Contingency option: beginning at 07:00 and ending at 22:00 daily, key up every 3 hours for the initial 5 minutes (exception is on the very first day, begin key up at the next available 3 hour mark.)</small>	
<b>EMERGENCY</b>	
<b>Unlicensed</b>	<b>Dark</b>
<b>Licensed</b>	<b>1) Simplex LOS (pre-designated DMR, encrypted if necessary)</b> <b>2) Vara HF WinLink for asynchronous emails peer to peer (other data methods available too)</b> <b>3) HF CQ (primary Friends &amp; Family pre-designated band; alternate band search)</b>
<small>* Use Wilderness Protocol for each Emergency option: beginning at 07:00 and ending at 22:00 daily, key up every 3 hours for the initial 5 minutes (exception is on the very first day, begin key up at the next available 3 hour mark.)</small>	

**PRIMARY** is what we use daily during normal times to communicate, and is pretty self explanatory. It doesn't matter whether I'm a licensed amateur radio operator or not.

**ALTERNATE** is how we would communicate if suddenly our mobile phone service stopped working. This is due to the towers being offline thanks to a number of possibilities including: intentional or unintentional damage, prolonged power grid down, computer issues, or a busy signal "pile up" due to too much traffic like we saw during 9/11 and the 2017 Fort Lauderdale Airport Shooting.

Unless you're one of the 36% of American homes who still has a landline (which is also vulnerable due to computer issues and dwindling usage and maintenance), you will be dependent on your home having working internet service, a powered wi-fi router, and powered electronic devices to communicate using VOIP, email, text, and internet . . . and

it assumes the people you are trying to contact on the other end also have working communication. Even folks with generators need to appreciate their fuel supply only lasts so long, so any mid or long term event will be problematic, and that they are still depending on their internet service working.

**CONTINGENCY** is where things get interesting. No mobile service. No land line service. No internet service. No power for an extended period of time. No travel due to roadways that are either blocked with debris, too dangerous, or shut down by “officials” (and that assumes you have fuel).

For the non-operator, unless you have a Satellite phone (and assuming it works under these conditions . . . a big assumption I personally will not take) you will have no ability to transmit, only to receive. The receiving will initially be on your emergency radio, car radio, or TV’s rabbit ears (assuming you have a generator), but eventually private radio and tv station generators will run out of fuel and the only inbound communications will be from “officials.” Not very comforting.

In contrast, the licensed operator with equipment and solar rechargeable batteries has options:

1. Hit a digital repeater to use internet cloud based Digital Mobile Radio to communicate with other licensed operators via 1:1 calls, SMS text messaging, or in chat rooms called Talk Groups. Many of these repeaters are hardened and contain multiple power backups (wind, solar, battery).
2. Hit an analog repeater using SARNET, a Florida specific network of 37 hardened repeaters with long term backup power operated by a partnership between private parties, FDOT, and FEOC. In the unlikely event SARNET is down, there are many other local analog repeaters to choose from with long term backup power.
3. Simplex line of sight between operators, though range is limited to radio power, antenna type, and terrain. There is no infrastructure such as repeaters or cloud with this option.
4. WinLink email (or other data methods ranging from CW morse code to JS8Call) via HF. This allows mid and long distance communications without any local

infrastructure. WinLink in particular is a great option for asynchronous communication with non-licensed loved ones far away who are not impacted by our local events. They use their existing email account like they always did to receive and send you emails.

**EMERGENCY** is when all the infrastructure goes off the rails on a global scale, and will remain that way for a while. The non-operator will be completely in the dark, either experiencing zero inbound transmissions either because they are worthless or because there simply are none. Enter *Dark Ages 2.0*. I hope your neighborhood can band together.

Meanwhile, the licensed operator once again has options all of which are completely infrastructure free:

1. Simplex line of sight between operators just like with contingency.
2. WinLink email or other data methods but now only between operators using HF.
3. Old school voice conversations between operators using HF.

So if you haven't figured it out by now, a \$25 Baofeng and YouTube video by gun people who are out of their lane isn't going to help you. Crappy gear, no license, no practice, no understanding of how amateur radio really works, etc. This is no different than telling people to go to the gun store, buy the cheapest gun they can, never train, never practice, but watch some YouTube videos and then you will be ready for any contingency. Sounds silly, right?

If you are interested in learning more, you have many avenues. You can visit the ARRL website and start reading and preparing for your license. You can join a local radio club. You can hire EDC's consulting services to help guide you and save time and money through the learning process (just like with shooting). It's up to you, but comms needs to be a part of your overall PACE plan.

Want to get more information? I recommend you start here with OH8STN (play from the beginning of the video):

# **GRID DOWN COMMS**

## **EMERGENCY COMMS FOR THE PEOPLE**

**HAM RADIO EMERGENCY COMMS**