

EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS - HAM RADIO

Why Ham Radio?

In the event of a local disaster, cell phones and regular phone circuits are often overloaded or unable to be used, and ham radios provide a critical source of emergency communications.

What do I need in order to legally operate a ham radio?

The FCC requires all ham radio operators to have a license. The most popular license for beginners is the Technician Class license. No Morse code is required, and prospective licensees must pass a 35 question multiple-choice written examination. There are no age requirements for this license (children and teens may become licensed). It is a federal offense to operate a ham radio without a license.

How should I prepare for the exam?

Be sure to use the 2006 Technician Class test pool as you study. Here's a link to a PDF version of the entire test pool, including the correct answer: <http://www.ncvec.org/downloads/2006tech.pdf> One of the easiest ways to prepare for the Technician Class test is to buy or borrow a book such as Gordon West's "2006 Technician Class" test preparation book. You also may want to study online and take free practice tests from the following site: <http://www.grz.com/testing.html> Classes are also often available locally, and you can search for a class here: <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/courses/> Another study option is to take an online class: <http://www.hamtestonline.com>

Any additional exam details? A total of 392 multiple choice questions are in the 2006 Technician Class test pool. Here's a link to a PDF version of the entire test pool, including the correct answer: <http://www.ncvec.org/downloads/2006tech.pdf> There are 35 multiple choice questions on the test, and you will be tested on the exact questions found in the test pool (the order of answers may be shifted around). In order to pass the test, you'll need to get 26 out of 35 questions correct (answer 75% correctly). Those who've passed the test have found it helpful to highlight and review the "correct" answer to each question (avoid reading the wrong answers and focus on reviewing the correct answers so they'll look familiar to you when you take your test). For free online practice tests, visit this site: [tp://www.grz.com/testing.html](http://www.grz.com/testing.html)

Where do I take the test?

Use the following "exam search" link to see when ham radio licensing exams are offered locally: <http://www.arrl.org/arrlvec/examsearch.phtml> (sample test location: St. James Anglican Church on Lido Island. A volunteer ham radio group generally offers the test once a month at this location). Most test locations ask that you bring cash for your \$14 exam fee (this includes your FCC license application fee), pencils, and a picture i.d.

After I pass the test, how will I get my actual license?

At the exam site, you'll fill out a ham radio license application form. After your test is scored and you pass the exam, the test administrators will electronically file your application with the FCC. You will be issued your own unique "call sign" (a series of numbers and letters such as KX4NVB). Depending on when your application is filed, this process could take 7-10 days. Once you're given your "call sign," you are officially authorized to go on the air.

How much money will this cost me?

Text prep: If you purchase an exam prep book, prices range from \$15.95 - \$18.95. Additional study materials are also available. You could also do your test prep online for no cost.

Exam fees: approximately \$14 per test. The FCC application fee is included in this fee.

FCC License Application Fee: included in the exam fee.

Ham Radio (handheld – looks like a walkie-talkie): prices range from \$79-\$199, average \$100.

Once I have my license, where can I get a ham radio?

You may want to visit a local ham radio store to see what you like e.g. the Ham Radio Outlet: 933 N. Euclid, Anaheim, 800-854-6046, <http://www.hamradio.com/> There are also online sites and used radio sources, and our ward and stake ham radio experts would be happy to provide additional guidance.

Once I get my license, will I ever use it?

Every Sunday, our ward and stake has an emergency communications training network at 9 pm. All licensed ham radio operators in our ward check-in. This network is a key component in our ward and stake's emergency communication system, and once you obtain your license, you will be a valued member of this network.