

 **Larry Trotter, KI6YUK**

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**Help on a Roadside Emergency**

Occasionally, a Ham Radio Operator comes across an accident or incident while traveling on the highway. Many Hams have mobile rigs in their vehicles, often tuned to a local Repeater. *Most Hams are not trained as First Responders, but if we are first on the scene, that is what we become, by defaul*t.

***There’s almost always something we can do to help, even if it’s only to call 911. Here are some suggestions:***

1. Don't put yourself or your vehicle in harm’s way...stay legal, stay safe!

2. Remember to breathe and collect your thoughts….. quickly.

3. Assess the incident. If there are injuries, render First Aid if you can but DON'T try to move the injured unless there's a Life threatening situation (like a fire or the vehicle is going underwater).

4. **LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION**!! Identify the location of the incident/accident.
 A GPS fix is best, but if you don't have GPS, give a close-by Mile Post Marker number, locally known landmark or estimated mileage from a known town or landmark. Be as accurate as you can.....useless directions will not get the First Responders to the right spot.

5. Call on any available channel and state your call sign and "**I *HAVE EMERGENCY TRAFFIC***" and have them call 911 Dispatch for aid. Remember: **NO NAMES OVER THE RADIO**. Only
 your own, never the injured or distressed, even if you know them.

6. Though not required, stay on the site until First Responders arrive.

7. As soon as you can, write up a brief report with date, time and location and what you were able to do at the incident. File this in a safe place for future reference, if needed. {See back of this letter}

Seeing an accident can be disturbing, even frightening to some folks.

**Try to remain calm and stay focused** on the task at hand. We sometimes find strengths we did not know we had. Many Hams train for events or incidents and never actually experience the chance to help someone else. But we also know, it will most likely happen when we least expect it. We do our best when and where we can.

*Please fill out form on the reverse side or next page.*

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  **Time:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ **Call Sign:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Contact information:** **Phone/Cell#:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ **License Class:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Frequency utilized**: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Simplex \_\_\_\_ Repeater \_\_\_\_

**Incident Location**: (GPS if available)

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**Address or Highway Marker:**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Incident / Vehicle Description:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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**Injuries?** [Yes] [No]

**Fatalities?** [Yes] [No]

**Anyone trapped:** [Yes] [No]

**Assistance Rendered:** [Yes] [No]

W**as 911 Called?** [Yes] [No] **Cell?** [Yes] [No]

 R**elayed via radio?** [Yes] [No]

**Describe Action Taken** (if any):

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**Print Name of Operator**: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Signature of Operator:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_