

Recommendation ITU-R M.1042-4 (02/2026)

M Series: Mobile, radiodetermination, amateur
and related satellite services

Disaster communications in the amateur and amateur-satellite services



Foreword

The role of the Radiocommunication Sector is to ensure the rational, equitable, efficient and economical use of the radio-frequency spectrum by all radiocommunication services, including satellite services, and carry out studies without limit of frequency range on the basis of which Recommendations are adopted.

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Series of ITU-R Recommendations

(Also available online at <https://www.itu.int/publ/R-REC/en>)

Series	Title
BO	Satellite delivery
BR	Recording for production, archival and play-out; film for television
BS	Broadcasting service (sound)
BT	Broadcasting service (television)
F	Fixed service
M	Mobile, radiodetermination, amateur and related satellite services
P	Radio-wave propagation
RA	Radio astronomy
RS	Remote sensing systems
S	Fixed-satellite service
SA	Space applications and meteorology
SF	Frequency sharing and coordination between fixed-satellite and fixed service systems
SM	Spectrum management
SNG	Satellite news gathering
TF	Time signals and frequency standards emissions
V	Vocabulary and related subjects

Note: This ITU-R Recommendation was approved in English under the procedure detailed in Resolution ITU-R 1.

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RECOMMENDATION ITU-R M.1042-4

Disaster communications in the amateur and amateur-satellite services

(Question ITU-R 209-7/5)

(1994-1998-2003-2007-2026)

Scope

This Recommendation provides guidance on the development of amateur and amateur-satellite service networks supporting preparedness and radiocommunications during disaster and relief operations.

Keywords

Amateur and amateur-satellite services, emergency communications, disaster and relief operations, emergency telecommunications planning, disaster management preparedness

Related ITU Recommendations and Reports

Report ITU-R M.2085 – Role of the amateur and amateur-satellite services in support of disaster mitigation and relief

The ITU Radiocommunication Assembly,

considering

that communications activities utilizing the bands allocated to the amateur and amateur-satellite services provide valuable training for amateur radio operators prior to disaster and relief operations events,

recognizing

- a)* that RR No. **25.3** provides that amateur stations may be used for transmitting international communications on behalf of third parties only in case of emergencies or disaster relief;
- b)* that RR No. **25.9A** states that administrations are encouraged to take the necessary steps to allow amateur stations to prepare for and meet communication needs in support of disaster relief;
- c)* Resolution 136 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on the use of telecommunications/information and communication technologies (ICTs) for humanitarian assistance and for monitoring and management in emergency and disaster situation, including health-related emergencies, for early warning, prevention, mitigation and relief;
- d)* Resolution 182 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) on the role of ICTs in regard to climate change and the protection of the environment, notably an increase in disaster-management preparedness and the use of ICTs in disaster prediction, early warning, mitigation and relief;
- e)* Resolution **646 (Rev.WRC-19)** concerning public protection and disaster relief;
- f)* Resolution **647 (Rev.WRC-19)** on Radiocommunication aspects, including spectrum-management guidelines, for early warning, disaster prediction, detection, mitigation and relief operations relating to emergencies and disasters;
- g)* that during emergency situations, regular communications systems and networks may be unavailable because of physical damage to communications infrastructure or loss of public grid power supplies,

noting

- a) Report ITU-R M.2085, on the role of the amateur and amateur-satellite services in support of disaster mitigation and relief;
- b) Resolution ITU-D 34 (Rev. Baku, 2025) of the World Telecommunication Development Conference, on the role of telecommunications/ICTs in disaster preparedness, early warning, rescue, mitigation, relief and response;
- c) Recommendation ITU-D 13.1 (Geneva, 2006) regarding effective utilization of the amateur services in disaster mitigation and relief operations;
- d) ITU-D Handbook on Emergency Telecommunications, in particular Part II, Chapter 5, on amateur services in emergency telecommunications;
- e) ITU-D Handbook on Guidelines for national emergency telecommunication plans, in particular Annex D,

recommends

- 1 that administrations should encourage the development of amateur service and amateur-satellite service networks capable of providing radiocommunications in the event of natural disasters or other emergencies, and that these networks are available when called upon by appropriate authorities;
 - 2 that these amateur and amateur-satellite networks should be capable of operation in the absence of other Radiocommunications networks and capable of operating from temporary locations, (as required) using local generator or battery based power supplies when public grid power is not available;
 - 3 that amateur organizations should be encouraged:
 - 3.1 to promote the design of robust organizational structures and technology systems capable of providing reliable radiocommunications during disasters and relief operations;
 - 3.2 to regularly train so that the necessary skills to provide an effective communications support are developed and maintained for deployment during emergency events.
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