The following items are suggested acquisitions to compliment your personal Grab-N-Go kit. Each item is chosen to address needs you will encounter in your communications service.

Here is Step 1. It is your initial equipment you will need as an effective emergency radio operator.

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| Radio, dual-band or two meter programmable synthesized CTCSS capable handi-talkie (HT) | You can purchase dual band (2m/70cm) hand-held radios for as little as $40. More reliable major equipment manufacturers have radios in the $150-160 range. If purchasing a used radio, be sure it has CTCSS (PL) tone operation. |
| Antenna, ½ or 5/8 wave HT gain | Spend an additional $10-15 for a better dual band antenna for your hand-held. It will perform noticeably better than the manufacturer’s stock antenna. |
| Battery pack, alkaline with 2 sets of batteries | Alkaline batteries are easily found, even during an emergency, and they are cheap. Rechargeable battery packs are “cool”, but are expensive, require a charger, and have a finite number of recharge cycles.  |
| Earphone for HT | The earphone enhances clarity in noisy environments, and also increases confidentiality/security of message traffic. A speaker/mic can also be of use. |
| Briefcase, gym bag, back pack | Choose a suitable way to carry your equipment. Find something you already have to start with, and plan for a better way to carry all the items you will be accumulating. |
| Folding or Book Map of Salt Lake County and Taylorsville City | Both folding and book maps of Salt Lake County are available. Check with Taylorsville City for a city map that may be available. The City has published a street guide that gives coordinates for named streets. A whole county map is advisable to allow navigation through neighboring communities to arrive at your assignment in Taylorsville. |
| Message forms [ICS213] | ICS213 is the default message form used by public safety responders for written message traffic. |
| Writing paper | This can be a spiral notebook, a yellow “legal” pad of paper, or other means for recording information and notes, and for giving information to another person in written form. |
| Pens and pencils | You have to sharpen pencils, you can’t erase ink, and cold ink doesn’t flow. |
| Clipboard | Nice to hold paper and message forms for writing. |
| Large size plastic trash bags | So many uses including the intended one. |

Here is Step 2. This equipment enhances your effectiveness in mobile and remote assignments.

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| Flashlight with at least one spare set of batteries (in addition to radio batteries) | This should be a pocket flashlight with sufficient light to allow seeing in very dark places, like behind furnishings and the back of equipment. |
| Antenna, dual-band mag-mount  | The price difference between single and dual band antennas is minimal, and the dual-band antenna is much more versatile. |
| RF adapters -- one each of the following:* Female UHF (SO-239) to male BNC
* Male UHF (PL-259) to female BNC
* UHF barrel (double SO-239)
* Male UHF (PL-259) to male and or female SMA (6-12” cable) (if you have SMA radios)
 | These are the more frequently encountered needs. Check your equipment to assure a way to connect your radio to an installed or someone else’s antenna. The SMA connectors are quite fragile and a cable will reduce the torque and bending moment on the radio’s connectors. Some antennas may have N connectors. Consider adapters between N and UHF. |
| Tool kit minimally including:* Screwdrivers, #1 and #2 Phillips; large and small flat blade
* Pliers
* Cutters, diagonal
* Adjustable wrench
* Electrical tape
* Pocket knife
 | Use your imagination, but don’t go overboard. Envision your own needs for repair and temporary installation of equipment and antennas. |
| Coax, short length (approx. 5 feet RG-58 or better), with UHF connectors (PL-259) | This is a must to go from your radio on a table to an antenna connector on the wall or an antenna on a tripod next to you. |
| Money, $10.00 in cash, at least $5.00 of which is in change (note: this money is for the Grab-n-Go kit specifically, and should not be lumped into the 72 hour kit required in later certification). | Consider $15.00. Be ready to use vending machines and even payphones. |

Here is Step 3. This equipment provides more reliable mobile and fixed station operation, and for longer periods of time.

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| Radio: dual-band programmable synthesized CTCSS capable mobile, 20W minimum, with ARES connectors  | Dual-band mobile radios are quite affordable today. Most will have power levels of 35W on 70cm and 50W on 2m. |
| Fuses for mobile radio | Carry spare fuses for all radios and spare fuses for the vehicle circuits that power your radios. A wide variety of fuse types may now be necessary. |
| ARES (Anderson Power Pole) power connector adapters to include:* Battery clips to ARES
* Cigar lighter to ARES
* 4-way (or more) ARES
 | This is the de facto standard for power connectors that unify amateur power circuits country wide. Many accessory products are now available from a variety of manufacturers. |
| First aid kit (personal) | This is to treat your own injuries. You are a communicator, not a medical responder. |
| Personal medications for 3 days | If you can’t take your prescription medications, you may become sufficiently impaired to diminish your ability to serve as a communicator. |

This is Step 4. This equipment enhances fixed station operations, and extends your away-from-home operational capability.

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| Station antenna, portable dual-band Non-rigid antennas like the twin-lead j-pole while handy, are not acceptable. | Put one in your Grab-N-Go kit and one on your home. You can get a very fine dual-band J-pole for less than $50 that is very weather worthy. |
| Coax, 50 feet (RG-8, RG-8X, or better), with UHF connectors (PL-259) | RG-8 presents less loss in comparison to RG-8X (Mini-8). RG-58 has more loss than either of the 8s. The loss is more detrimental to UHF (70cm) operations. |
| 72-Hour Self-sufficiency Kit to include (minimally):* 3 MREs (meals ready to eat)
* 2 quarts water (minimum)
* Poncho or rain gear
* Pocket knife
* Personal hygiene items
* Personal medications
 | Experience has taught us that 72-hours is totally inadequate. Planning for a week is much better. You may need to modify your kit contents to accommodate your radio assignment, or stage your kit contents in two parts to keep from carrying a week’s worth of supplies. |

This is Step 5. This equipment extend your capabilities for monitoring incident communications and assures capability to communicate on 70cm in fixed station operations. It also helps alleviate worry about time away from your family.

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| Radio: UHF programmable synthesized CTCSS capable mobile, 20W minimum, with ARES connectors | If you purchased a 2m mobile radio (not a dual-band) consider buying a 70cm mobile as a second radio, or now purchase a dual-band and move your 2m mobile radio to packet radio service. Power levels for 70cm radios is usually 35W high power. |
| Battery(ies), 12 volt with at least 10 amp-hour combined capacity | This should be a battery small enough to carry for temporary field deployment. Larger capacities provide longer operation, but consider a rule of thumb being one pound/amp hour capacity – a 100A/hr battery weighs about 95 pounds. |
| Portable antenna mast and hardware (to support antenna in Step 4) | This can be as simple as a TV antenna tripod and mast, or a large military style tripod and mast. Remember cordage and stakes to stabilize the antenna installation. |
| Programmable "scanner" type receiver | This allows you to monitor additional nets and tactical frequencies. More and more public safety communications is transferring to trunked radio systems and are also becoming encrypted; this eliminates the ability/need for a scanner to monitor emergency responders. |
| Portable lighting (Coleman, propane or battery) | Many battery camping lanterns use LED technology greatly extending operation time on one battery change. |
| Soldering iron and power source | Portable irons usable in the field are propane or 12V powered. It will be difficult to find an iron of this type that can solder a UHF connector. Remember the solder. |
| ARES power extension cord (25 foot 14 AWG minimum) | Voltage drop in circuits is more sever in 12V circuits. In comparison to a 120V circuit, the current will be 10 times greater at 12V to deliver the same power. |
| 72-hour kits for all family members | This will help reassure you of your family’s wellbeing during an emergency, allowing you to concentrate on effective radio operations. |