

Communication for an extended period after a disaster will be crucial. The following are very affordable options for entry into the world of amateur radio (all prices are based on an Amazon.com search from Sept. 2017).



Basic Radio: Baofeng UV-5R (\$25) or BF-F9 V2 (\$65)

Either the UV-5R (5-watt) or BF-F9 V2 (8-watt) will provide communication in a time of emergency. While not as feature-packed as some more expensive options, these will be more than adequate to keep you in contact. Included when you purchase the radio are an antenna, battery, 120-volt charger, and instruction manual.

Antenna: Generic (\$20)

The most important accessory to improve the quality of your radio is a good antenna. The stock antenna is fully capable, but a longer whip style antenna will greatly enhance your communication ability. You will need to make sure your antenna and radio have compatible connectors (Baofeng uses SMA female connectors for the antenna). A magnetic-base car-mount antenna (\$25) is also a good idea if you will be using your radio while mobile.



Extra Battery: Baofeng 7.4V (\$20)

A second battery is the second most important accessory. Although you will get long-run times from the stock battery, extensive use, long deployments, or inability to recharge will affect your ability to remain in communication. Most manufacturers offer a battery with a larger capacity than the battery that comes with the radio.

Speaker-Mic: Generic (\$15)

A speaker-mic will allow you to keep your radio in its holster and still be able to transmit and receive by locating the speaker-mic closer to your head. This is extremely helpful in environments with lots of ambient noise. One major benefit is not having to handle your radio and risk accidentally changing a setting and losing communication.



Programming Cable & Software: Baofeng specific (\$25)

ICC will program your Baofeng radio to our standard memory settings at no cost, but if you wish to do your own programming, you will want the software and cable. Programming via the keypad is long and tedious at best.

Car Charging Cable: Generic (\$12)

This will allow you to charge your radio from any 12-volt, vehicle outlet, and it is helpful on long deployments or during extended power outages.



For Comparison

The popular basic Yaesu FT-60 is about \$160 (radio only) and an additional \$125+ for the listed accessories.