# **Emergency Communications with D-RATS**



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### Outline

- Data in an emergency
- Why D-STAR?
- D-RATS Features
  - Chatting
  - File transfers
  - Forms
  - Email
  - Positional awareness



# Data in an Emergency

- Fast, error-free transfer of electronic records
  - Situation status reports
  - Resource requests
  - Patient manifests
  - Pictures of damage
- Quiet operation
  - Put radio operators directly in an EOC
  - Field stations in noisy environments
- Integrated logging of messages with times and dates



# Why D-STAR?

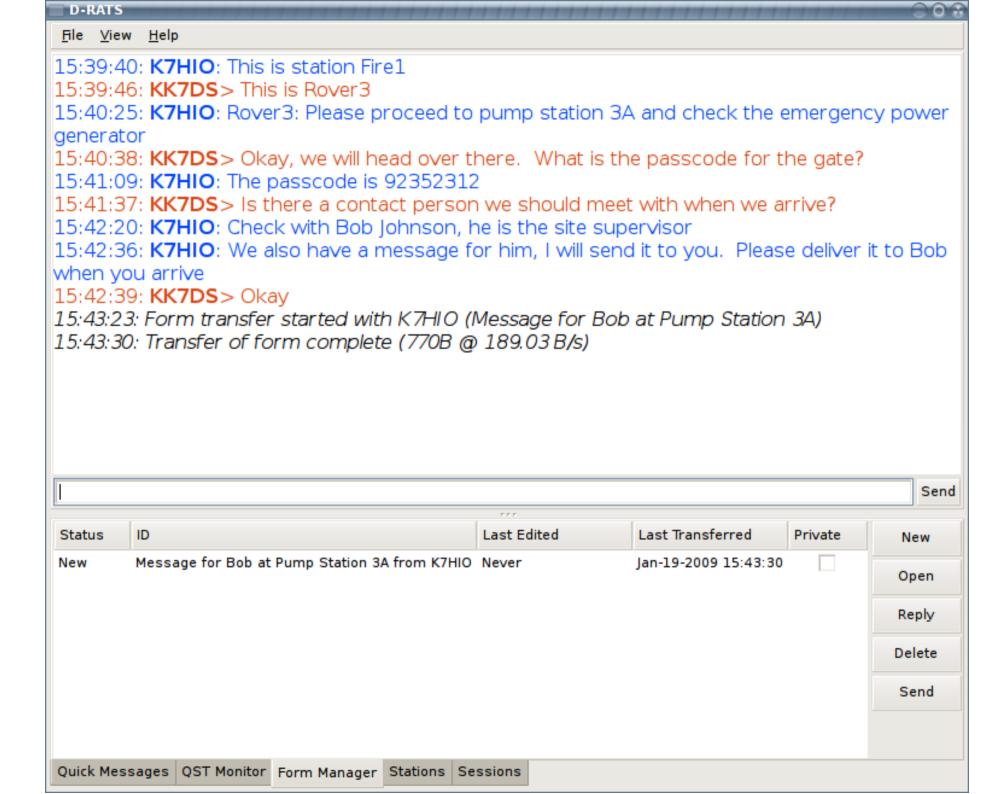
- Integrated data support
  - Fewer wires, devices, less complexity
  - Smaller stations No TNC/Modem needed
- Simultaneous voice and data on the same frequency
  - No need for separate radios
  - Simpler frequency plans
  - Positional reports in realtime while operator is speaking
- Gateway operation for wide-area operation
  - Data works through the gateway too



# Chatting

- Quick instant-message operation among operators
  - Multicast so everyone sees everything
  - Good for broadcasting updates and instructions
- Quiet operation
  - Can operate in a very noisy environment
  - Doesn't contribute to noise in an operations center
- Easier to convey messages and ensure correctness
  - Numbers, Names, etc





#### File Transfers

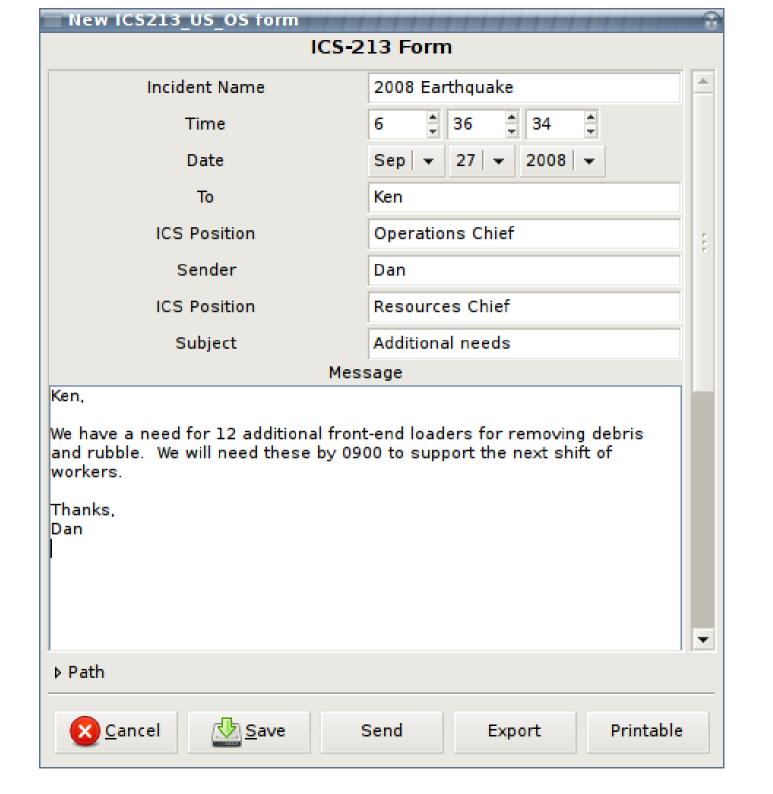
- Uses the integrated data subchannel
- Send any arbitrary file
- Instead of reading a document over voice, send it exactly in its natural form
- Interactive image resize and resample
- Compresses files where possible for speed
- Resume interrupted transfers



#### **Forms**

- Quick fillable forms that can be sent to other stations
  - Fillable for quick access
  - Smaller than an equivalent office document
- Printable view that mimics paper form format
- Recreate any agency form with integrated builder
  - Use the form that the served agency is used to
  - Create event-specific forms for efficiency
- Pass forms easily from station to station tracked with a transfer record







File Edit View History Bookmarks Tools Help



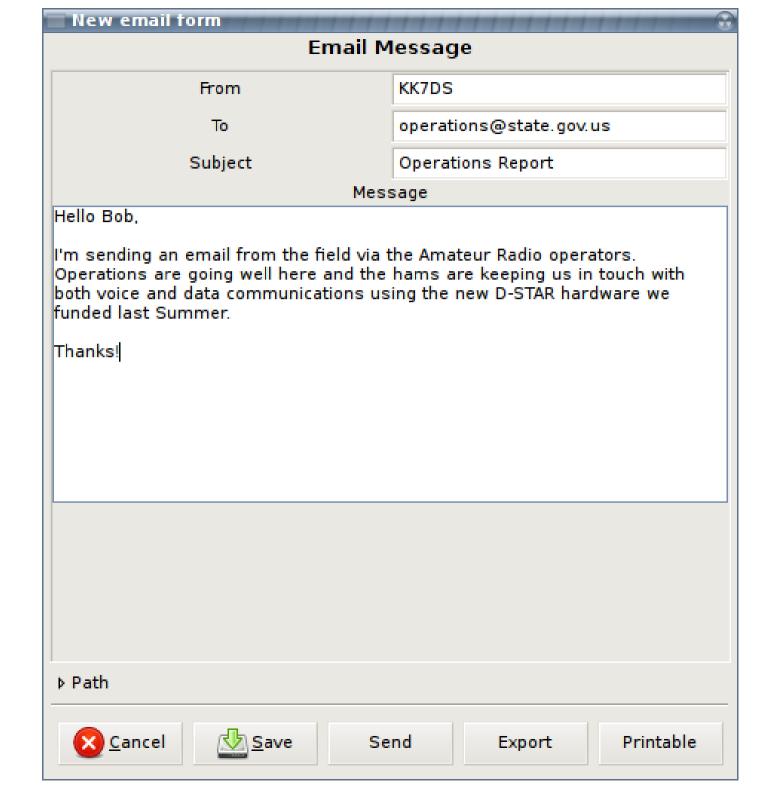
Incident Name	Date/Time of n	ıessage	GENERAL	MESSAGE
D-RATS Testing	esting 23-May-2008 12:07:00		I	CS 213-OS
То	ICS Position			
Bob	Operations	Chief		
Sender	ICS Position			
Suzie	Supplies Le	eader		
Subject				
Request for tents				
Message				
Bob,				
We desperately nee	ed 184 tents to	cover our station	s from the incessant Ore	gon rain.
Also, please send ra	at traps.			
Reply				
Simplum / Bosition (no			Date/Time of reply	
Signature / Position (person replying			23-May-2008 12:07:05	
GENERAL MESS	AGE	June 2000		ICS213-OS

Bleaters in version: General and by D-RATE

## **Email**

- Send and receive email from D-RATS station
  - Any station with internet access can be a gateway
  - Provide gateway access to RF stations with no other infrastructure
- Easy to setup in an event
  - Requires only an internet connection and email account
- Contact served agencies or out-of-area stations through the nearest internet node





### Positional Awareness

- Integrated position reporting
- Integrated mapping
- Distance/bearing calculation to any station
- External GPS support for moving stations
- Use a D-STAR radio with an integrated or external GPS
  - IC-2820H, IC-92AD have integrated GPS options
  - Other ICOM radios can use any serial NMEA GPS



