

Puerto Rico is completing the emergency kits and recently started the radio efforts

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The disaster relief efforts in MOVE International Puerto Rico have continued advancing in a forecasted active hurricane season scenario. We have divided our work into two phases. The first phase (Phase 1) involves creating the emergency kits, and the second phase (Phase 2) focuses on radio communications, including organizing and participating in virtual events.

Phase 1 is almost completed. As previously reported, the emergency-kit creation is titled the Modular MOVE design. This Modular MOVE is based on portable emergency kits that will be deployed in times of disaster. We have adopted this design in Puerto Rico. Each kit contains electrical inverters, solar panels, chargers, and radios to assist the Red Cross in disaster relief. Currently, we are in the process of acquiring the protection boxes for these items. After this step is completed, a total of three (3) kits will be distributed in three separate locations on the main island of Puerto Rico. Thanks to the collaboration of the Logistics Division of the Red Cross Puerto Rico Chapter, one of the kits will be at one of their main facilities in the capital, San Juan. Upon nearing completion of these tasks, we started working on Phase 2 of the project.

Phase 2 is focused on radio communications, and we began by gathering information about the radio community in Puerto Rico (Radio Amateur License Types) and starting the process of testing antenna infrastructure in Puerto Rico. First, we gathered information and contacted different groups and associations that have worked for decades in the radio community in Puerto Rico. Second, in the Fall, we plan to certify ourselves as amateur operators with the Technical License. After acquiring this first license, we plan to acquire the General Class License. Since these efforts are being conducted jointly with the Logistics Division of the Puerto Rico Chapter, several volunteers from IEEE MOVE and Red Cross personnel will be taking the certification courses.

Third, another task of Phase 2 is to test antennas that have been designed by colleagues of IEEE MOVE USA in Puerto Rico. These antennas can help Puerto Rico communicate, especially in times of disaster, to avoid a loss of communication. Finally, we are enthusiastic about the IEEE Western Section of Puerto Rico collaboration in Phase 2. They have offered help with arranging meetings with the radio community to discuss the possible locations of the antennas.

We have organized and participated in virtual events to show the progress of MOVE Puerto Rico. In February, during this Spring semester, we called for volunteers for our first team meeting inside the IEEE Puerto Rico and Caribbean Section (PR & Caribbean). In March, MOVE Puerto Rico and MOVE USA showed a summary in a virtual event organized by the PR & Caribbean section. We also enjoyed participating in the MOVE Town Hall together with colleagues from MOVE USA and MOVE India. Each group shared its milestones and presented its current and future activities. Lastly, with the IEEE Foundation and MOVE USA, we had the pleasure to speak about the MOVE Puerto Rico objectives and our next steps.

We are grateful for volunteers and MOVE USA's support. We are confident that MOVE International will continue to grow globally inside the IEEE to serve as an example of our mission: Advancing Technology for Humanity.

If you would like to join the Puerto Rico efforts, please contact us at: ieeepcsection@gmail.com loderay.bracero-marrero@ieee.org.

Photo #1 Example of the Modular MOVE: emergency kits items for each kit



Photo #2: MOVE Puerto Rico participation in the webinar held on May 19, 2022, by the IEEE Foundation and MOVE USA

