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### **Communications after Day One**

Scenario: The arrival of the Sentient disrupts power and communications permanently

Outcome: Various but survivors are forced to employ older technologies

Story implications: Various but ham radio returns and with it, global connection

Solution: The challenge to survivors is to reboot contemporary coms or find alternatives

## Summary

The Sentient's arrival delivers an EMP that permanently disrupts our power supply. There is no power. No power supply rules out most contemporary communication systems.

Reboot: Whilst it may be possible to reboot some systems, the complexity of contemporary technology would likely create too many choke points to get it working.

Unused: Technology and batteries, still in the box will not be affected. Anything in use or that has been used, will be affected.

Older technologies: The US got hold of a new MIG jet fighter back in the 70s. They were amazed to discover the Soviets were still using vacuum tubes. They didn't realize that the Soviets had worked out that vacuum tubes are not affected by the EMP of a nuclear blast. Vacuum tubes were used in various older technologies such as HAM radios.

Ham Radio:

1. Survivors may find a radio station with a storage room containing antique technologies
2. Survivors may know or find a ham radio operator's set up

Power for your ham:

Your ham radio may work but how do you power it?

Power Option 1: Find a 12-Volt generator, hand cranked, and a power inverter. This will work, barely, but maintaining power and operating the equipment will be problematic. For example, you can power the receiver but not both the transmitter and receiver

Power Option 2: As above but the user finds a few previously unused car batteries, uses a hydrometer to find they are low on charge and uses the generator to charge the batteries. This allows operation of the radio equipment without having to crank the generator

Now you're cranked but what of your antenna?

Here's a scenario. Your character finds the ham radio, powers it then realizes there's no antenna. Fortunately, there are a few, 'How to' books.

They eye a quarter wave dipole (simplest to create) and determines it needs to operate on the 40 meter band (10 meter length for the antenna). They string the wire, attaches a coaxial cable and connects the line to the radio.

That or for the sake of getting straight to the drama, let them find a set-up with an antenna.

Talk or Morse code?

Morse code is an option but for drama, talk is best.

Who will you speak to?

It's a big world. The Sydney franchise of the Sentient story will see the characters make contact with a survivor on a Russian Air force base in Siberia.

Russian survivor  
Everyone is gone. It's just them now.

Dr. Amon Teicher  
Who is, 'them?'

Russian survivor  
They're coming.

A white noise spike then nothing.