

BASIC RADIO PROCEDURES

- Keep the radio / antenna vertical and pointed up
- Stay at least 10' from other radios
- Think about what you are going to say and how you want to say it before you press the PTT key. Press the PTT key for 1 full second before speaking.
- Hold the radio 2-3" away from mouth
- Speak slowly and clearly across the microphone
HINT: Do not block the small microphone hole with fingers
- Do not transmit for more than 10-15 seconds. Your messages should be clear, concise, short, and to the point.
- What to communicate? Assignments, Status / Check-in, Situations, Logistics Requests, Call for Help, Safety Issues
- Only transmit factual information
- When speaking, use common language, not codes used by Police, Fire, or Military.
- Do not press the CALL button... It annoys everyone...
- Use Tactical Call Signs / Roles, not Names, e.g. ICP, SAR Team 2, Shelter Manager. Use of people's names adds to the confusion.
- Do not change the radio settings unless told to do so
- **WARNING:** Radio communications are not private. Do not transmit any private information. The general public can hear you, including the Media.
- **For Drills, make sure to say "This is a Drill" on the radio to prevent confusion.**

RADIO NETS: There are two types of radio nets, Open and Directed.

- An Open net means anyone can talk to anyone at any time.
- A Directed Net has a "Net Control Operator" that acts as a dispatcher / traffic cop for radio transmissions. Check in with them and follow their instructions.
- **EXAMPLE Using Tactical Call Signs and Procedural Words (Pro Words)**
 - "Command, THIS IS Search Team Two. OVER"
 - "Search Team Two, THIS IS Command. OVER"
 - "Command, my message is..... OVER"
 - "Search Team Two, Command COPIES your message. OVER"
 - "Search Team Two CLEAR"
 - "Command CLEAR"

HAM RADIO WARNING: Avoid using programmable / amateur radios on FRS/GMRS bands that are not certified for such use. FRS/GMRS use narrow-band frequencies. Unless specifically programmed for narrow-band, amateur radios use wide-band programming which will cause interference on adjacent FRS/GMRS channels.