

Major Principles for Effective Radio Communication

Your Radio

- On/Off
- FRS/GMRS - power levels, licensed vs unlicensed
- Speak across, not into the mic
- "privacy channels" & what happens when used
- What is "Call"? Another useless feature
- Power levels. Use the lowest that works (battery life, interference)
- PTT. Hold while speaking, release so others can. Full-Duplex vs Half-Duplex. Talk not Think
- Distance yourself - feedback and desense
- Test radio before going out - channel, volume, battery level, privacy code, power level.
- Troubleshooting handout

Communicate Effectively

Identity, Clarity, Brevity - principles to follow when speaking on the radio

Identity

- Begin every transmission by stating who you wish to talk to and who you are.
- Use team names or positions like "DA alpha" or "Command."

Clarity

- Stop, think through what you need to say.
- Use short, simple words to enhance understanding.
- Stay calm to avoid speaking too quickly or forgetting words.
- Don't rush; speak slowly enough to be easily understood.

Brevity

- State essential facts only.
- Communicate only one message at a time.
- If transmitting long messages, give it a "break" to allow others to interject.
- Transmit addresses or numbers by saying each digit individually.

To make a call you should:

- Stop and listen to ensure the frequency is clear.
- Start by getting acknowledged before giving your message.
- Keep transmissions time to a minimum.
- If it is a priority, say so at the start to take precedence over normal traffic.

Pro-Words and Other Jargon

- Know "STANDBY/ALL STATIONS STANDBY", "BREAK", "END OF MESSAGE" or "END OF REPORT"
- Common pro-words "COPY," "GO AHEAD/GO," "SAY AGAIN,"
- Avoid unnecessary jargon; use plain language for clarity.
- Don't use redundant phrases like "OVER and OUT."
- Use expected phraseology eg. tk@gmail.com vs tks at-sign gmail period com

The 2-meter/ham Radios

- Avoid using ham radios unless licensed.
- If untrained, wait for a licensed ham to operate the radio.
- Messages can be passed to the city through fire stations using GMRS radios.

Crossword Exercise