

PUBLIC SERVICE BRIEF

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HARDWARE

- Any HT or mobile VHF radio. One or the other may be preferable depending on event location.
- For HT's, you may want to consider a hand mic, headphones of some type, and an extended antenna. Use of VOX should be avoided!
- An extra battery pack or charging option should be top on the list.
- If using a mobile, some method of extending the microphone so you can maintain a position outside of your vehicle (will depend on the type of event and desired visibility).

BASIC COMMUNICATIONS

- Listening is at least 50% of communications. Use headphones, don't transmit unless requested to do so.
- Speak in a normal, clear, calm voice. Speak at a normal pace. Pronounce words carefully.
- Brevity and Clarity, Each communication should consist of only the information necessary to get the message across clearly and accurately.
- Use plain language, don't use jargon or codes.
- Phonetics, use the ITU phonetic alphabet to spell difficult or unusual words. Do not make up phonetics.
- Leave a space in transmissions to allow any emergency traffic to break in.

USE PROCEDURAL WORDS WHEN POSSIBLE

- Clear – End of contact, sent before final identification
- Over – Used to let a specific station when to respond
- Go ahead – Used to indicate that any station may respond
- Out – Leaving the air, will not be listening
- Stand By – A temporary interruption of the contact
- Roger – Indicates that a transmission has been received correctly and in full

TACTICAL CALLSIGNS

- Tactical call signs identify the stations' location or purpose during an event, regardless of who is operating the station.
- Tactical call signs eliminate confusion at stations with multiple operators.
- Tactical call signs should be used for all emergency nets and public service events.
- Remember the FCC requirement to identify at least once every 10 minutes!

NET OPERATIONS

- Networks can be either Open and Directed.
- Open (informal) nets have no network control station guiding the order of transmissions. Stations may call each other directly.
- Directed (formal) nets have a network control station (NCS) which organizes and controls all net activities. One station wishing to call or send a message, must first receive permission from the NCS. This is done so that messages with a higher priority will be handled first.
- If the net is in progress and you have emergency traffic to send, you may need to break into the net.
- Wait for a pause between transmissions and simply say Break and your tactical call sign. Again, why it's important to leave space between transmissions.

HABITS TO AVOID

- Speculating on anything relating to an emergency.
- Thinking aloud on the air Ahhh let me see. Hmm. Well, you know, if
- On-air arguments or criticism
- Rambling commentaries
- Shouting into your microphone
- Cute phonetics
- Identifying every time you key or un-key the microphone
- Using I0 codes, Q-signals or anything other than plain language
- Talking just to pass the time

SAFETY

- Number one rule is visibility. If you are outside your vehicle, you should have some sort of Hi-Viz safety vest. If inside your car, you should have safety cones or markings behind your vehicle to warn oncoming traffic.
- A plug-in amber warning light might be a solid investment. Remember, running electrics off your vehicle can drain the battery,
- If you cannot get your vehicle far enough off the road, you may be contributing to the emergency.
- Number two rule, we are there for communication support. Not to direct traffic, assist in parking, or participate in the event management.
- Be prepared for the weather. Have food and water with you. Dress appropriately and additional clothing for potential change in weather conditions.