

EmComm Meeting
May 20, 2018

AGENDA

- Slack
- Yahoo Groups vs groups.io ?
- Skywarn Operations
 - Net Ops Team
 - NWSChat
 - ETECS Weather Maps
 - Mobile Spotters ?
- Exercise Results
- Phone Traffic Handling Pointers
- NBEMS & FLDigi
- Update on W5ETX Repeater System

Traffic Handling Notes

- Which Mode to Use?
 - Phone (spoken)
 - Digital (FLDigi)
 - Fixed message formats
 - Usually more structured messages
 - Depends on several factors, but two stand out as most critical:
 - Length
 - Shorter messages probably faster by phone
 - Time to type message longer than time needed to send it
 - The longer the message the more efficient it may be to type it and send digitally
 - Complexity
 - Unusual or complex words, names
 - Long and/or complex text
 - Complexity may exceed receiving operator's capability
 - Served agency requirements... signatures, format, etc.
 - Rules of thumb
 - Phone
 - Message length < 30 seconds spoken at proper rate
 - Simple message to convey
 - Digital
 - Longer message
 - Complex message structure or content

- Fixed Message Formats (NTS Radiogram, ICS213, etc.)
 - Why use rigid format messages?
 - Complete documentation of what has been sent, time, addressee, etc.
 - Conciseness – actually takes less time than informal traffic
 - Easier copy as operators know what information to expect and in what order
 - When communicating non-tactical information on behalf of another person, particularly a municipal/served agency official
 - When a formal record is required
 - When receipt of a message is required
 - When NOT to use fixed format messaging
 - To transmit tactical or emergency related messages:
 - Immediate threats to life and property
 - fires, critical medical need, shots fired
 - Critical weather events - funnel cloud, large hail
 - Frequency change requests
 - Net Control Operations
 - Signatures
 - The Signature is the name of the person originating the message.
 - This is usually the local official, shelter manager, etc.
 - This should include person's title and telephone number
 - Must be an actual signature for EMERGENCY traffic
 - Always get official to review and sign every message even though you may compose it; Do you want to explain to a court why you “think” and are “pretty sure”

you requested 20 units of blood that were asked for but only 10 arrived?

- Drill Messages
 - Include “This is a drill XRAY” as the first line of message text
 - This way the drill indication is part of the message and the word count and can’t be overlooked as part of the header
- Punctuation
 - Use "X-Ray" in place of periods, commas.
 - "X-Ray" counts as a word. (Do not use as last word in message)
 - Question Mark = Query
 - No other punctuation generally used
- Frequency
 - Decimals often get lost
 - Use R or the word decimal
 - Methods
 - Mixed group 146R11 (count 1)
 - Figures 146 letter R Figures 11 (count 3)
 - Figures 146 decimal Figures 11 (count 3)
- Position (Latitude/Longitude)
 - needed when streets & signs are gone
 - Units
 - degrees, minutes, seconds ?
 - degrees, minutes, tenths ?
 - degrees, minutes, hundredths ?
 - What does POSN N 41 36 15 W 78 05 52 mean?
 - 36 m 15 s or 36.15 min?
 - Suggestion: Use decimal format

- Designate decimal with R
 - Examples
 - POSN N 41 33R14 W 71 29R06 (not 29R6) or
 POSN N 16 49R6 W 23 37R2 (count = 7)
 - Alternate format (d/m/s) : POSN N 16 49 06 W
 23 37 02 (count = 9)
 - Why Bother with Lat/Long?
 - Best to agree on format ahead of time
- Phonetic Spelling
 - It is also important to spell phonetically words that sound alike or may have several forms of spelling; i.e. to, too, two, etc.
 - It is also important to spell words whose meaning may not be clear.
 - Use the pro-words, "I SPELL" before each instance.
 - "You're"
 - Say the word "you're."
 - Say "I spell," and proceed with "YANKEE OSCAR UNIFORM APOSTROPHE ROMEO ECHO."
 - Then say the word again, "you're".
 - This will avoid confusion with your, you're or yore in the message.
- Email address: N1BDA@arrl.org
 - n1bda at arrl dot org – count is 5
 - read as “Amateur call [or mixed group] N1BDA at letter group a-r-r-l dot letter group o-r-g”
- Web Address: <https://ares.ema.arrl.org/doc1.htm>
 - ARES dot EMA dot ARRL dot ORG slash doc1 dot htm – 11 words
 - Omit http://

- Read as letter group A-R-E-S dot letter group E-M-A dot letter group A-R-R-L dot letter group O-R-G slash mixed group d-o-c-1 dot letter group h-t-m
- Operational Hints
 - Read S L O W L Y
 - trace over words as you read
 - senders read too fast
 - Read text in groups of five words and drop carrier between groups
 - When in doubt, use phonetic spelling.
 - Always spell difficult names or variants: John versus Jon, Steven versus Stephen, Bierkenstock
 - Always spell chemical names, medications, and technical terms. Too many chemicals have similar names except for the endings, for example, -ane, -ene, ine. Their properties may be dramatically different.
 - Use pro-words – this is critical
 - Figure – single numeral follows
 - Figures – several numerals follow
 - Letter Group – usually an abbreviation (EOC)
 - Mixed Group – letters and numerals (12A)
 - Amateur Call or Call Sign) – special type of mixed group
 - I Spell – phonetic spelling follows
 - I Say Again – repeat of previous word
 - Numbers
 - DON'T send numbers as 12345.
 - DO say "figures 12345".
 - Zip Codes

- DON'T say "Zip Code 12345".
- DO say "Zip figures 12345"
- Mixed alphanumerics: "Mixed figures em22gl"
- Telephone Number
 - Lots of options...
 - figures 800 figures 555 figures 1212
(count = 3)
 - mixed group 800 dash 555 dash 1212
(count = 1)
 - phone figures 290 456 7890 (best?)
 - Extensions: letter group ext figures 437
(count is 2)
- Correction – I'm going to correct something
- End – end of message
- More – additional message(s) follow
- No more – no additional messages
- Say Again – request from recipient to repeat
 - Word after
 - Word before
 - All after
 - All before
 - Between

References

<http://www.w1ekt.org/uploads/2/7/7/0/27709431/qra-nts.pdf>

<http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/nts-mpg>

<http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/forms>: - FSD-3 ARRL Numbered Radiogram - FSD-218 Amateur Message Form - FSD-220 Handy Operating Aid - FSD-255 Emergency Reference Info Card