



Essential Aspects of Emergency Communications

(1)

The Master Channel Plan



Foundation and Rationale

To the officers and membership of the RRVARC, the following is a proposal to be considered by the officers and the general membership of the RRVARC.

In order to avoid chaos and communications failure, pre-planning and group preparedness and pre-programmed gear are as critical as regular training and exercising of well established plans and procedures.



Summary:

This is part of a multi-level emergency interoperability plan and system comprised of multiple elements to eventually include:


- Coordinated and unified training,
- Coordinated and unified equipment standards,
- Assignable equipment (standardized),
- Uniform programming and procedures,
- A master channel plan with compliance programming files and programming services available from the club for any operators who may wish to participate in events, emergency drills and responses.

The Master Channel Plan

The Essential Bones

- All Amateur HT radios on the incident grounds or involved in the incident response **NEED** to be programmed *exactly* alike.
- Even numbered channels are repeater channels.
- The next highest numerical channel (Odd numbered) is *always* the preceding repeater's output frequency – programmed as a simplex channel.
- Repeater inputs should **NEVER** be included in the channel structure as a simplex channel -- *or any kind of option!* Other than as a duplex portion of the repeater channel, repeater inputs *should be completely ignored*

- Four 2m repeaters and 3 national simplex frequencies -- and Four 70cm repeaters and 3 national simplex frequencies should be chosen for their accessibility, availability, reliability and durability
- The 2m repeaters should be programmed in memories 1~10, with non-paired simplexes in 11~ 20. *Unused channels are to be left intentionally blank.* Channel One is a selected default TACTICAL channel – **TAC-1**
- The 70cm repeaters should be programmed in memories 21~30, and 70cm simplex frequencies in memories 31~40. Any unused frequencies are to be left intentionally blank. Channel 21 is a selected default TACTICAL channel – **TAC-2**
- All simplex and tactical channels are to be programmed at the radio's maximum power.

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- All repeater channels are to be programmed at the radio's middle power level.
 - A specific chosen channel (16 on my radios) will always be programmed with local NOAA configured and locked to RX ONLY.
 - ANY radios distributed by the club to new members MUST be pre-programmed with the Master Channel Plan, and recipient warned against deleting or altering those channels.
 - The club EOC rep should contact and coordinate with MTC to have radios pre-programmed or post-programmed as needed at minimal club expense.
 - ALL participant's MCP radios must have a second charged spare battery available during any event or response.

Other assorted details


- Licensed Amateur Radio operators may, of course, choose to do as they will with their own gear, but if they are going to be included in any emergency responses, their gear must have the first (40) channels programmed in compliance with the master channel plan, or be prepared to leave it in the vehicle and use a club temporarily assigned pre-programmed transceiver during the exercise or incident.

More assorted details

- If and when needed, all members should be prepared and accept the possibility their radios may need to be surrendered to others according to immediate need. All radios WILL be returned to their proper owners in good working condition, and in a timely fashion or will be replaced by the club as needed. (To be determined by the technical standards committee.)

Epilogue and final notes

- A hurry happens quick, and tragedy does not negotiate. If you're not prepared to be a part of the solution, at the very least, don't become part of the problem.
- ANYONE wearing a LEN/EMS/FD badge on an incident scene or event location has authority. We only have authority over our own radio station/HT. Period.
- Ladies and gentlemen --- EGO HAS NO PLACE in this aspect of amateur radio operations. If you can't live with the rules, don't join the party.

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- Learn when and how to be useful. Know when to talk. Know how to talk. Know when NOT to talk.
 - Know how your gear works, what to expect from your gear, and how to garner the best level of performance possible. Also know why it might fail, and how to mitigate any recoverable failure.
 - Know how and when to ask for help. Know how and when to provide assistance. Know when not to be, “too many chiefs – not enough injuns!”
 - Learn how to think on your feet.
 - Learn how to deal with temper tantrums. Emergency situations bring out both the best – and the worst – in people. Helping sometimes means being tolerant and cordial.



That's it.

- Let the growls, grumbles, questions and cursing begin!