

Map Your Neighborhood

Emergency Radio Communications Hierarchy and Protocol

Very initial draft – March 1, 2019

Communications Hierarchy:

- MYN teams communicate to MYN Leader.
- MYN Leader communicates to Cert Team.
- Cert Teams communicate to Fire or Police Chief via Ham Radio embedded in CERT Team.
- Fire/Police Chief communicate to Incident Commander at Emergency Operations Center.
- ARES (Amateur Radio Emergency Services provide message communications between County Emergency Operations Centers, County Emergency Command Centers, and between the County, State and FEMA organizations.

Note: Not all layers of the communications hierarchy may be functioning during the initial period immediately after a disaster event, so it may be necessary to skip to the next higher hierarchy level until intermediate communications levels are established. The layers exist to filter out information. The incident command center cannot handle hundreds of calls. Monitor FRS channel 5, but don't use this channel unless there is no other way to report critical information.

Communication Protocol:

- MYN members communicate with other MYN members via FRS radios.
 - Pick a channel for all members of the MYN team to use.
 - Avoid Channel 5 as that is used by CERT teams.
 - Use low power unless high power is needed. Other neighborhoods will be on the same channels and you don't want to talk over them.
- Assign a MYN team captain
 - Assign "Best qualified" at time.
 - Determinizing likely candidates in prior planning makes this easier, but choices may not be available at time of disaster. Consider possible alternates in planning.
 - The MYN team captain may change as a better qualified candidate is available.
- Communicate to the team captain
 - The team captain is the focal point of communication for your team.

Communications Tips:

- Keep communications short.
 - No unnecessary chatter. Stick to Facts.
- Speak slowly and enunciate.
- Pause so others can break into the conversation. Especially important to allow a more critical message to be interjected.
- Use the "Hey You", this is "Me" communications to initiate a call.
 - Example "MYN Team 8 Captain, this is Team member Bill"
- Keep to facts. Do not spread rumors.
- If you need to talk, but don't want to tie up the radio, move the conversation to a different channel.

Note: There are two kinds of communications. Emergency and informational. Emergency would be life threatening and other issues that need immediate attention, while information may be important information such as a bridge has collapsed, or a road is impassible.

Note: Listen to your local radio station for announcements and information. (KSQM @ 91.5 FM)