

- 1) Listen before you transmit to make sure the channel is clear. If you have urgent traffic, wait for a pause between other traffic and state "BREAK" then attempt a contact.
- 2) Be sure of the channel you talking on. Channel 1 (Main Repeater/Dispatch on Taylor Mtn.) and 2 (Car-to-Car) both are on the same frequency, they "hear" the same things. Channel 3 is the Black Mtn repeater, its coverage is the east side of the county. Channel 4 is the Kelly Mtn repeater, its coverage is the north side of the county along the Snake River. Channels 1, 3 & 4 have a little burst of noise after you let off the transmit button. However, channel one will cover (make unreadable) channel two. This is often heard as a garbled sound. Don't contact Dispatch on channel 2. Use VHF channel 1, 3, or 4 for dispatch and long distance and channel 2 for close-in and tactical communications. Currently, the primary channels to contact Dispatch are the VHF Taylor or Kelly repeaters. Dispatch does not have the 700 MHz system on the Orbicom Radio Console, it does not have playback available, nor is it on recorders.
- 3) Be aware that someone with a scanner IS listening and may be recording our communications. Family or friends of the victim/patient will probably be in Command and will be listening. Don't say anything that you may not want to hear later (i.e. in the Sheriff's Office, in court, on the 10 o'clock news or, in the newspaper). Don't be cute or disrespectful. All traffic on channel 1 is copied to channel 3 and 4, and vice-a-versa. Channel 1, 3, & 4 can be heard from Island Park to Jackson Hole Wyoming to Arco to Gilmore Summit to Twin Falls to Soda Springs to Malad. Car-to-car channels can be heard anywhere from less than a mile to the same coverage as a repeater channel depending on the terrain. The higher up your antenna is, the larger the coverage.
- 4) Don't give sensitive information over the radio (use your best judgment). This could compromise a court case, create bad rumors, or allow criminals to escape. Avoid using the radio for patient information; if possible use a cell phone. If you find a deceased subject use 10-79 or ask for "300 to respond to you location."
- 5) Keep your traffic short, direct, and to the point, the channel may be needed for other urgent traffic. The other person you are communicating with wants information, not a dialog. If you have a large amount of traffic, complete a short section of it and then say "BREAK" to allow others to use the channel. Continue with you traffic when the other party says "CONTINUE" or "GO AHEAD". You don't need to say 'OVER' or 'OUT' at the end of you transmission.
- 6) Use a professional tone, speak clearly and distinctly. Don't whisper or yell, this distorts the sound so that it is not understandable. Don't press the microphone against your lips; hold it about 2 or 3 inches away and slightly off to one side. Don't talk too slowly or too fast, control your adrenaline.

7) To start a contact, push the transmit button, wait 2 seconds, state the unit number of the person you are calling, your unit number, and then the repeater or frequency. For example: "...851, 850" (on 700 MHz, or Taylor, Kelly, or Black), or "...851, 850 on Car-to-Car," or ...Bonnevillle Dispatch, 850 on Search and Rescue Taylor), release the transmit button after another 1 second. If they don't respond, repeat the call one or two more times. If still no answer, state that you had a negative contact and then our radio call sign (KNAR411). Check the volume control if no one answers you. If you are calling Dispatch and they don't answer, be patient, sometimes they get very busy. When calling the EMS State Communications Center on one of their mountain top radios use "Idaho State Communication Center, Bonneville County Search and Rescue 850 on F2, Garnes Mountain", if you know, give the closest mountain.

8) Answer or acknowledge traffic you receive and understand. If you don't understand or you can't copy what is said, ask for it to be repeated. Limit the number of times you have messages repeated. If you are using car-to-car ask if someone else can copy better, use them to relay the message. If you are using the repeater channels other people hear the same sounds as you. If you can't completely understand the message, ask for only parts to be repeated. If you hear too much noise during the transmission, if moving, stop moving or if still, change locations and have the message repeated. When others have trouble copying you try to stop your movement. If you are using a handheld, hold it up high and away from your body for a better signal.

9) If other people are having trouble understanding you, or you can't hit a repeater, try changing the battery on a handheld. Watch the transmit light; if it blinks when you transmit, the battery needs to be changed. If you are using a mobile, turn off other radios or the stereo to reduce background noise. It may help to turn off equipment that draws large amount of current (i.e. headlights, winches, or heater fans) and rev up your engine to increase the battery voltage.

10) If you are communicating with an aircraft, don't point the antenna at the plane. Point the antenna so that the aircraft can 'see' the length of the antenna.

11) It is against federal law to do any of the following. You maybe fined or imprisoned and we could be fined \$10,000's or have our license revoked if found guilty.

- 1) Use foul or obscene language on the radio.
- 2) Purposely interfere with other radio users.
- 3) Give false information over the radio.
- 4) Not to use the FCC call sign (KNAR411) periodically.
- 5) Conduct business or personal matters not related to Search and Rescue.
- 6) Use any frequencies for which we don't hold a license or permission to use.
- 7) Broadcast other radio stations or music.

12) Don't use channels 1, 2, 3, or 4 outside about 70 miles from Bonneville Co. Our frequencies are used by other groups in other areas. The EMS, MRA, and State Search and Rescue channels are to be used within the state of Idaho. National Search and Rescue channels can be used in the western United States. Other users are on these frequencies so be careful not to interfere.

13) Watch that the transmit button doesn't become stuck or accidentally keyed. This will cause the radio to transmit and we will all hear things you may not want heard. This is a real problem with lapel and mobile microphones.

14) The use of Family Service Radios is for personal/hobby use. Using 22 channel FRS/GMRS "hybrid" radios on the GMRS channels requires a license. You can only use the FRS channels legally without a license (in the United States, Canada, and Mexico).

15) Report lost, stolen, or damaged radios in a timely manner to the Logistics' Officer.

16) The following '10' codes can be used (however, **Clear Text Terminology is preferred**):

10-4 OKAY, Acknowledge, YES, Agreement, Understanding, Etc.

10-8 In-Service, available for assignments.

10-9 Repeat you last message (try moving the antenna about a foot or hold it up and away from your body.)

10-20 Your location, or if as a question, give your location.

10-23 Arrived on scene/location

10-41 Beginning tour of duty

10-42 Ending tour of duty

10-79 Notify the coroner. You have found the body.

17) Code Four means "That everything is OK. No further assistance needed."

18) If the Search and Rescue repeater system is down, in an emergency, or while on a search use Swan Valley Ambulance or Road & Bridge. If you have an emergency and Swan Valley is not available you can contact EMS State Communications on EMS-F2 (155.280). The EMS F2 channel can be used anywhere within the state. We can use these channels on a shared basis; do not interrupt any transmissions by the other users. We are a guest on THEIR channel. If you are close to Idaho Falls and the main repeater is down you can get to dispatch by using the REVERSE channel (normally channel 10).

19) The channel assignments on different radios may not be the same. Check the radio channel you're using before transmitting. Locking the handheld radio on the channel will help prevent being on the wrong channel.

20) A number of the channels in our radios are only for mutual aid with surrounding counties. The use of these channels must be coordinated with the other agency. We can use these channels only for coordination and on a secondary basis, do not interrupt any transmissions by the normal user.