

An emergency may not involve a callout from your EC

Before an emergency occurs, it is a good idea to know how to make a emergency call on a frequency where hams are likely to be listening, such as 147.270 or another wide-coverage repeater frequency or even the 146.520 which is the national simplex calling frequency. Store these frequencies in your radio's memories, if possible. Anyone licensed or not, can use your radio equipment in an emergency to call for help on any frequency.

When reporting an emergency, accident or other incident we should keep in mind what basic information the receiving party (police, state troopers, fire dept, and ambulance) will need. Often the most common mistake is not remaining calm, and as a result, it is easy to overlook the obvious. A dispatcher will always want to know where something is happening and how serious it appears to be. Report what the station in distress has told you, but don't embellish the facts. It is also important not to speculate or make suggestions as to what action the dispatcher should be taking. If the dispatcher asks a question you or the station in distress does not know the answer to, it's alright to say "I don't know".

Remembering the questions Where What and Who, can help you gather information quickly as possible.

- **Where**

Where is the emergency? Get the description of the location so that emergency response personnel can get there as quickly as possible. If on a highway, get mileage, landmarks, and direction of travel on the road, and physical description of the vehicle, person, or whatever else will make it easy for responding personnel to identify the exact location. If not on a highway, give any appropriate landmarks or other means to identify the site to emergency personnel. (Like: 3 miles SSE of ANYTOWN)

- **What**

What is the emergency? Is this a life threatening event? Is there a fire, a dangerous animal, a natural phenomenon or a dangerous man-made event, such as a traffic accident? Try to determine if anyone is injured and if so, how many persons. Are any physical conditions (such as visibility) pertinent to the emergency? Find out what assistance is needed.

- Who

Give the emergency crew the reporting stations information, where they are calling from, how they determined the nature of the emergency and a number or other way they can call you back if necessary. If you are relaying via ham radio, stay on the line until they release you.

If you hear a distress signal on the air:

Immediately find something to record information. Note the time and frequency of the call. Respond to the call. Say "[Give the station's call sign], this is [your call sign]. STATE YOU'RE EMERGENCY.

Acquire information as quickly and clearly as possible. Where What and Who. Ask the person to remain on frequency as long as it will not put them in danger. Call the appropriate public agency or public emergency number, such as 911. Follow the dispatcher's instructions to the letter. The dispatcher may ask you to act as a relay to the station in distress.

As soon as possible, report back to the station in distress. Tell them who you contacted and any information you have been asked to relay.

Stay on frequency as long as the station in distress or the authorities need your assistance.

YOU can use ham radio to report accidents, stalled cars, and fires. Don't assume that people with cell phones are doing it. If you are the one who needs to report an emergency, accident or other incident, call on a frequency where hams are likely to be listening. Try different frequencies if you do not get an answer. If you do decide to change frequencies, announce to what frequency you are moving so that anyone hearing you can follow.

After you have found a frequency that you have gotten a response from someone, state that you have an emergency to report.

For instance, to report an automobile accident, you should know:

The highway number or street.

The address or approximate mile marker of the highway.

The direction or lanes the accident occurred.

Whether the accident is blocking traffic.

If injuries are apparent.

If the vehicles are on fire, are smoking, or have spilled fuel.

Similarly for fires and other hazards, the dispatcher will always want to know where it is and how serious it appears. Don't guess if you don't know for sure! Only report what you know.

Also, unless your safety is endangered and you are on the scene, stay put until the emergency crews arrive.

Do not move injured persons unless their life or safety is in immediate danger wait for trained medical personnel. Cover victims with blankets keep them warm and lessen shock and exposure injuries.

I know this has not covered step by step how to cover every type of emergency, accident or incident but I hope if you are ever put in the position to relay or call for help with an emergency this information will help you have the right information to help others. This is the end of the program and I am looking forward to any comments or additions you may have.