

SENDING SPEED

- Perhaps the single most difficult skill in sending traffic is learning the speed at which to voice the groups transmitted. The receiving operator may be copying with pen and paper, using a favorite old typewriter or using word processing. Knowing which method is in use is helpful in tailoring sending speed but you should always assume pen and paper is being used.
- Introduced and spelled groups are sent one character at a time thus it is generally easy to “keep up” with the sending speed for those. Other groups or phrases transmitted must be sent with sufficient clarity and appropriate speed for the receiving operator to perceive what to copy and not to have to rush to “keep up.” Rushing leads to errors and/or illegible copy.
- Remember that spaces are also a critically important part of the process. Spaces, or pauses in articulation, convey group separation and other signals to the receiving operator. Sending “Glen Dale Court” too quickly may result in the incorrect copy of Glendale Court. Omission of a pause is also a signal, for example, when sending a group, voicing “I spell” immediately, and then going back to voice the characters one at a time

(the receiving operator hearing “I spell” immediately will wait for the spelling).

Introduction and spelling also clearly indicate that only one group is being treated in the transmission.

- The sending operator should always voice the groups as recommended and visualize the ongoing copy process. When transmitting pretend to “spell out” and copy the groups as they are sent. This will automatically allow the extra time needed by the receiving operator to spell out the longer groups or phrases.
- This all requires practice. Sending traffic on regular nets or across a table from a receiving operator can help you to learn how to do this effectively. Receiving traffic yourself will give you insight into the effects of sending speed, but you will still have to concentrate on paying special attention to this matter during transmission. Recording yourself while sending practice messages will also help with learning to send at a good receiving speed. Knowing how to do this well is a mark of an experienced traffic handler. During emergencies an inexperienced operator may send too quickly and not be experienced in

these protocols resulting in numerous fill requests, uncertainty and reduction in net throughput to half or worse.

The objective in handling written radio message traffic is to transmit copy, relay and deliver the message EXACTLY as it was written.