

City of Mason CERT Radio System Rules & Facts

Do: Listen before you key the radio. If you just turned on your radio, make sure the channel is not in use. There is always something going on, don't be the person that makes everybody shake his/her head.

Don't: Key the radio if you're going to be impossible to understand. It's a balanced system. Receive and transmit are equal. If the system is noisy to you, you will be noisy to the system. If this is the case, speak slowly and distinctly. Repeat the key items. Do not raise your voice as it will only make you harder to understand.

Don't: Key the radio if you're having a bad time hearing. If you have to raise your voice to hear it above your surroundings, then your surroundings are being heard by the radio. A microphone is like an ear. Beware of background noises like wind or sirens, etc.

Do: Know what you're going to say before you key the radio.

Do: Key the radio before you talk. There may be a small delay before your group will hear your first word. Key the mic, take a breath, then talk.

Rule: If you are on a directed net, you are to talk to net control and no one else. Unless directed to do so by the net controller.

Do: Keep it short. The average time a police officer transmits is six seconds.

Don't: Create feedback. Do not key a radio next to another radio or portable that is of the same channel.

Rule: Never play music on the radio. You are on a Public Safety Frequency. The FCC takes great pleasure in catching that kind of thing. You are looking at fines and possible jail time if you are caught.

Rule: Never use bad language. Speak as if you're in a court of law with an angry judge. The FCC may be monitoring. Fines and possible loss of licenses may result from your improper action.

Fact: No matter what time of the day or what channel you transmit on ... PEOPLE ARE LISTENING TO YOU! What you say on the radio today, you could read in the paper tomorrow. Never say something you do not want repeated back to you in a court of law.

Phonetic Alphabet

When spelling out words over the radio, each letter of the word is replaced with a code word to reduce ambiguity between similar-sounding letters.

A	Adam	H	Henry	O	Ocean	V	Victor
B	Boy	I	Ida	P	Paul	W	William
C	Charles	J	John	Q	Queen	X	X-ray
D	David	K	King	R	Robert	Y	Yellow
E	Edward	L	Lincoln	S	Sam	Z	Zebra
F	Frank	M	Mary	T	Tom		
G	George	N	Nora	U	Union		