

Radio Best Practices & Common Prowords



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BEST PRACTICES

- If possible, have *two* radios on the field team, each with a spare battery.
- Put on antenna *before* inserting battery. Take battery out *before* taking off antenna.
- Press push-to-talk, take a breath, wait for red light to come on *before* talking
- Talk *across* the microphone, not *into* it.
- Speak... slowly... and... clearly!
- Address other person “you, this is me,” *not* “me to you.”
- Before leaving Base, *call Base* on radio for a signal check.
- *Set alarm* on cellphone/watch to remind you to check in at interval Base requests

PROWORDS

Radio Check: What is my signal strength and readability; how do you hear me?

Loud and Clear: Your audio is adequately loud and your voice is not distorted.

Weak but Readable: audio is weak (either because you need to talk more loudly or your radio’s audio is weak) but can understand you.

Strong but Distorted: Your signal is strong but voice is distorted; speak more slowly and more clearly and not as loudly

Weak and Distorted: It’s hard to understand you because of a combination of a weak signal and distortion of your voice.

No Copy: I cannot understanding your words.

Nothing Heard/Negative Contact: If you call a station and don’t hear a reply, you can say this; the station might have heard you and this tells them that you can’t hear their reply. Not uncommon when a powerful Base radio is talking to a much-weaker handheld radio.

Base, this is: when calling into base (see “you, this is me”: sixth bullet point above)

Over/Go Ahead: your turn to talk.

Roger: I received your message (*not* yes).

Affirmative: yes.

Negative: no.

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Prepare to Copy: get ready to write it down.

Stand By: wait a moment.

Ready to Copy: I'm ready to write it down.

Read Back: read back the message you just wrote down.

I Read Back: reading message I just wrote.

I Spell: Phonetic spelling follows.

Figures: numbers and letters that don't spell a word follow, such as a grid coordinate.

Say Again: say again your last message. (Use *instead of* "Repeat.")

I Say Again: I say again my last message.

Correction: I made an error, or you did not hear message correctly; what follows is correct.

Clear: I'm done talking but still listening.

Out: I'm turning off my radio.

Break: 1: stopping my transmission for a second in case another station needs to break in.
2: Stop transmitting, I have a higher-priority message.

How Copy So Far?: Used as an alternate to "Break"; often "How copy so far, over?"

Continuing: I am continuing my transmission after saying Break proword

Secure the Net: sensitive message, for SAR personnel only, follows.

Clear the Net: Stop talking! Stop Talking! - Hold all messages until released by Base unless life threatening situation.

Status Codes: Call Base: "Team Bravo, Status Two" or similar but nothing more, without emotion; don't say the word "Find."

Status One: Subject found, can walk out.

Status Two: Subject found, needs evacuation.

Status Three: Subject found, dead. Use cell-phone to communicate this; if must use radio, send **Clear the Net** first.

For Real, For Real, For Real: Used during a simulated SAR operation to indicate that the following transmission is not simulated but relates to an important real issue; after the first "For Real, For Real, For Real" additional messages may just start with one "For Real."

For more, see communications chapter at <http://www.conovers.org/ftp/AppSAR-Drafts>