

Using Your Radio in the Church

On-Air Training
Idaho Falls Bishops' Storehouse
2016-09-14

Welcome

A couple weeks ago, I came to the net with a question. Tonight, I have a lot of questions--most of them rhetorical. Their purpose is to get you thinking. I'll need responses from you for some of them. Tonight's training is the first of several in a series of trainings to help you be prepared for the exercise on October 15.

Introduction

Here's a scenario: Your Stake President contacts you and says, "We have a situation! I need you to come to the church with your radio and help me communicate with the wards. Can you be here in 10 minutes?"

What do you do?

What questions do you ask?

What do you take? Do you already have it ready?

Can you be there in 10 minutes?

Once you get there how long will it take you to get setup?

What questions do you ask?

What questions do you need to ask your stake president?

Is there any more information you absolutely have to have at this time?

Maybe, "In what room should I meet you?"

What do you take?

What do you need to take with you to the church? Do you even know what works there and what doesn't?

Here's something to try long before the call comes from your stake president:

- Go to the cultural hall;

- turn on all the lights; (There is no purpose for this, but you don't want to feel silly standing in the dark!)
- stand in the middle of the room;
- attempt to contact another operator in your region using your regional simplex frequency.
- If you cannot hear them or if they cannot hear you, then you have to do something different.

More than likely you will not be transmitting from the cultural hall, but it's a worse case scenario in the middle of meeting house. So even from one of the rooms on the perimeter of the building: What could you do differently?

What do you do?

- External antenna
- Position of antennas
 - Higher (above the roof line)
 - Proximity to other antennas
- Better coax
- More power (maybe move to a 50+ watt mobile unit)

The point is, you need to know before that call comes what works and what does not. I would recommend that you find out the answer in the next seven days so you have time to make adjustments. I would also recommend that this is not an activity just for stake ECS's. Everyone should know what it takes to operate from their meeting house.

If you cannot afford to augment your equipment at this time, that's fine. In the meantime, you should know where you need to stand to get a clear simplex signal and a clear signal to the 88 repeater.

Do you already have it ready?

Prepare go kits "today".

Everyone has different resources. Prepare a list of things you need in *your* go kit. Make a plan to gather items. Maybe one thing a day. Maybe a box today. A radio next week. Build an antenna the following week. Some coax the following, etc.

What are some things you might need in a basic radio go kit?

Radio	Antenna	Coax	Mast/mounting mechanism
Paper	pencil	pen	forms
Battery	Box/Bag		

On the more elaborate side (from the One-Is-None lesson):

Multiple Dual Band Radios	HF Radio	HF Antenna
Multiple VHF/UHF Antennas	Packet/Digital Capabilities	Computer
Charging system (e.g. Solar)	Crimpers	Spare connectors

Can you be there in 10 minutes?

Do you keep your vehicles fueled and well maintained?

A couple years ago, we started an exercise on a Friday evening. On that afternoon, I decided I better get the oil changed in the truck. Well, one thing led to another until a 30 minute oil change turned into a 3 hour repair.

Is your go kit assembled and Ready2Go?

Even if you only have one radio, you can gather all the other stuff you don't use regularly -- spare battery, charging station, slim-JIM antenna, operator's manual, etc.-- so that all you have to do is toss in your radio and go.

Is your family ready for you to go?

- Do they know what to do and how to care for themselves?
- Do they have a way to contact you if the situation changes?

How long will it take you to get setup?

Have you practiced deploying your gear? Have you practiced deploying your gear someplace other than your house? Have you practiced deploying your gear at the church?

Once you figure out what it takes to hear and be heard from your meeting house, practice. Maybe you can go there on Wednesday night and check in to the nets from there. You might have to schedule a room and acquire a key, but both of those are very doable.

Summary

So, can you communicate from your church? Find out. We'll take some time at the beginning of the training next week to get a report. I'd like to know what you learned -- what worked, what didn't work, what you're changing, and any sage advice you'd like to share with others.

Conclusion

That concludes tonight's training. 73 to you all and 88 to some of you. This is N7TMS, back to net control.