

OPERATING TIPS

- ▶ Never monopolize a frequency—experienced operators listen more than they transmit
- ▶ Keep transmissions short—emergencies do not wait for monologues to finish
- ▶ Pause before transmitting—wait 2 seconds or so before resuming your conversation so another station can break in if necessary
- ▶ Don't call CQ on FM—just say THIS IS followed by your call sign, the word monitoring, and the frequency you're listening on
- ▶ When using a linked repeater, wait 2 seconds after pressing your PTT button before you speak—the repeaters need time to turn on; otherwise the first few words you speak will not be heard
- ▶ Use the correct repeater—don't use the state-wide repeater for conversations within the county; don't use the county-wide repeater for conversations within your local area; and don't use the local area repeater to talk across the street
- ▶ In an emergency, transmit a DTMF zero for about 5 seconds—this attention getting device alerts listeners that someone needs immediate assistance
- ▶ Watch what you say—do not make thoughtless or off-color remarks that might offend others or damage the reputation of amateur radio

SITREP

A situation report consists of the following elements.

- ▶ State your name and precise location
- ▶ State the situation as briefly as possible
- ▶ State exactly what assistance you need
- ▶ If people are injured, state the number and estimate the extent of their injuries
- ▶ If there is a fire, estimate the size and scope
- ▶ If there is physical damage, estimate the extent and severity
- ▶ State any other information you feel is pertinent to the situation such as traffic conditions, weather, and so on
- ▶ Ask if there is any additional information you can provide before leaving the scene

SKYWARN

Report the time and location of the following events to the National Weather Service as soon as possible.

- ▶ Thunder and intense lightning
- ▶ Heavy rain for at least 15 minutes
- ▶ Flooding that blocks roads or causes damage
- ▶ Surf that is unusually high or damaging
- ▶ Wind strong enough to cause property damage
- ▶ Earthquake when people and structures fall
- ▶ Funnel cloud whether or not it touches the ground

NETIQUETTE

Network operation is terse by design. The ultimate goal is to achieve clear, concise, accurate communications as rapidly as possible. Short transmissions and circuit discipline are paramount in network operations.

There are three things you must do in a net: **check in**, **monitor**, and **check out**. Before you check into a net, listen carefully to get a feel for the Net Control Operator's style. Once checked in, respect and obey instructions issued by the Net Control Station. Stay off the air unless you have something significant to contribute or are the most qualified person to handle a task requested by the Net Control Station. Never leave the Net Control Station wondering what happened to you. If you need to be away from the radio for any reason, check out and then check in again upon your return.

REMEMBER

Prepare in advance. Make sure your equipment is working properly and that your extra batteries are charged.

Learn the recommended operating techniques before you need to use them; and, practice them in your every day operations.

Raise your skill level by using prowords and break tags in an appropriate and responsible manner.

Before you initiate a transmission, take a moment to think about what you want to say and organize your thoughts in order to minimize airtime.

Listen before you transmit and never transmit unless the frequency is clear.

During the day, 40 meters usually works better for regional communications than 75 meters does and vice versa

Participate in formal drills such as the Makani Pahili exercise sponsored by the Hawai'i State Civil Defense in May, and the Simulated Emergency Test sponsored by the American Radio Relay League in October.

A GUIDE TO AMATEUR RADIO OPERATION IN HAWAII COUNTY

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In a communications emergency

- ▶ Monitor all appropriate primary frequencies
- ▶ Check into your local net
- ▶ Initiate a local net if none already exists
- ▶ Report your status and operational capability to your local Emergency Coordinator as soon as possible so the EC knows what resources are currently available

