

Operating Your Ham Radio In An Emergency

January 12, 2021

Jim Mortensen W7AZY

Information from my experiences:

All emergencies are different so there isn't a real step by step procedure to follow. **Requires 24/7 monitoring your radio and willing to assist distress and emergency calls.**

Making A Distress Call

Reporting An Accident Or Incident

1. Use your phone, if possible and call 911.
2. Using your radio:
 - a. Make sure your radio is on full power
 - b. Call Break or Break Emergency
 - c. Don't be afraid to interrupt an ongoing conversation
 - d. After you have control of the repeater or frequency, request that someone make a 911 call for you.
 - e. Give the ham that is making the call clear information about the incident or emergency:
 - What the emergency is: car accident, etc.
 - Type of emergency assistance needed: (medical, police, fire, tow truck, etc.)
 - The highway number and mile marker number
 - Direction of traffic lanes involved
 - Stay on the repeater until released by dispatch
 - You will probably be asked for your name, phone number and call sign
 - f. Remain at the scene until released by emergency personnel

GIVE FACTS – DON'T GUESS

Do not embellish the facts

If You Hear An Emergency Call

(Find something to record information on (paper/pen))

Information you will need for 911 dispatch.

1. Nature of the emergency
2. Location: highway, mile marker number, address, GPS coordinates, etc.
3. What assistance, may be needed (medical, tow truck, etc.)
4. Get the name, call sign and phone number of the reporting station.
5. After receiving the information, Call 911 and respond to dispatch questions. (DO NOT hang up until you are released by dispatch)
6. Let dispatch know that the incident is being reported via ham radio.
7. Keep in contact with the ham reporting the emergency.
(You are the relay between the reporting ham and dispatch.)