

# GMRS Radio Quick Reference

## Radio Etiquette

1. Hold down the push-to-talk (PTT) button and *wait 1 second* because the transmitter may take that long to kick in.
  - a. Hold down the PTT button firmly for as long as you are speaking.
  - b. No one else can transmit while you are transmitting, so...
  - c. Keep transmissions short and to the point. Say one thing only each time you transmit.  
*Don't ramble.*
2. If you are calling a specific person, say their name 2-3 times, and then your own name and call sign. (if you have one)
3. When you are done, say "over" to indicate the other side can talk.
4. To break into a conversation, wait for a break and say "break" and then your name or handle.
  - a. Say "priority" if what you have to say is urgent, "emergency" if it's an emergency.
5. Acknowledge the other side's transmission with "Copy" or "Roger".

Radio for Protests Do's	... and Don'ts
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Have a comms plan for your team</li> <li>✓ Have fallback channels if yours is used</li> <li>✓ Use channels 15 - 22 when you need maximum transmission power</li> <li>✓ Keep your antenna high and clear</li> <li>✓ Use a shoulder mic, because protests are loud!</li> <li>✓ Use privacy tones for less background chatter</li> <li>✓ Switch to Signal, etc. for sensitive info</li> <li>✓ Practice using radios during chill protests and marches</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✗ Just hand out radios to people</li> <li>✗ ...not have fallback channels</li> <li>✗ Use channels 8-14, unless you want <i>minimum</i> transmissions power</li> <li>✗ Block the antenna with your body</li> <li>✗ Leave the radio in your backpack or pocket</li> <li>✗ Mistake privacy tones for encryption!</li> <li>✗ Rely on radio for all communications</li> <li>✗ Assume it will all go smoothly the first time you use radio at a protest</li> </ul>

GMRS Channel Info		
Channels	Tx Power	Notes
1-7	5 watts	General GMRS/FRS comms
8-14	½ watt	Short range comms only
15-22	50 watts	Highest power; general comms or for receiving repeater traffic
23-30	50 watts	For transmitting to repeaters; only on repeater-ready GMRS's
31+	0	Receive only; for AM/FM, NOAA weather, Ham traffic, etc.