

Cypress Stake Radio Network

Adopted April 2011

The Cypress Stake has had a long established amateur radio (HAM) “network” to aid in emergency communications should the need ever arise. In most emergency/disaster situations “normal” means of communications will surely fail. Home phones, Cell phones and even satellite phones rely on an outside framework that can’t be counted on in an emergency. In fact they are almost always overloaded or completely fail. Realizing that not all members have the means or desire to become a HAM radio operator, we would like to endeavor to expand this network to a wider range of members in our Stake. To that end we are going to begin a FRS Radio network in conjunction with our regular (weekly) HAM network.

Family Radio Service (FRS) radios are the small battery operated radios that some use for recreational purposes. The FCC created the FRS as an unlicensed service for families and groups. They are often seen in retail stores for \$25.00 to \$50.00. Despite some advertising claims of 20 mile coverage, in most circumstances they are only effective in an urban/suburban setting of a ½ mile or so at best. Even though they are limited in their range they do have several advantages that make them a good means of communication in an emergency. Because they are limited by their low output and short antenna, you will only hear and be heard by those around you, also because they use an “FM” signal they are provide very clear communications, with little or no background noise.

So how can you join our FRS network? Simple, if you already own and FRS radio, make sure that you have fresh batteries installed, tune your radio to channel 3 (with no “Secrecy or privacy” code, more on this later) and join in on our Stake FRS Network, the first Sunday in every month starting in April @ 8:30 PM. Follow the general guidelines below and let’s see how well we all can communicate within our Stake. If you don’t own a radio and would like to participate you can purchase a FRS or a FRS/GMRS radio for less than the price of a good dinner. (Wal-Mart has a twin pack for \$22.95)

- FRS network starts at 8:30 PM on the First Sunday of the month on FRS channel 3.
- A “Roll Call” will be taken by Ward (Net control operator will say “All those in the BP unit check in now”
- Pause a moment and then give your first name followed by your last initial and your unit number (i.e. This is Tony B. in the C2 unit, over)
- The Net control operator will acknowledge your transmission, and give you a report on how well your transmission was received. (Thank you Tony for checking in, you have a good signal into net control this evening).
- Because there maybe more than one person checking in at the same time, if you didn’t get an acknowledgement, simply wait a few seconds and repeat your Name and unit number.

- It may be helpful to pay attention to who you hear, as well as, who gets acknowledged. Net control maybe able to hear many more people than you can, or maybe you can hear someone that net control can't and you may need to "relay" the check-in for another.
- At the end of the roll call the net control operator will ask if there are any locations missed, and make any important announcements.

Special Considerations:

- ✓ In the event that channel 3 is being used by someone else when we are practicing our network, we will move to the secondary channel 5.
- ✓ This network is a great opportunity for you to understand how your radio works and to what extent you can effectively communicate with others. Make sure you read and understand your particular radios operations. Also make sure when trying to communicate with the network you turn off all secrecy/privacy codes.
- ✓ Encourage others in your Ward to participate. How much would you like to have ability to talk to fellow Ward members in a true emergency?
- ✓ All radio communication by their very nature are PUBLIC, do not disclose any personal information. That's why we use "C2 Unit" instead of Cypress Second Ward. Try not to give out any specific location information i.e. "I'm standing at the corner of Valley View and Orange" instead say "I am two blocks West of the OAB" Or "I'm at my house and I'm going to the CSC"

How to effectively use a FRS/GMRS radio:

- Make sure you have fresh batteries or that your rechargeable batteries are fully charged.
- Use the radio in a vertical orientation. Radio waves travel out horizontally from the antenna. A radio tilted on its side will communicate really well with passing aircraft!
- Hold the radio 6 to 8 inches away from your mouth.
- Push the Push To Talk (PTT) key THEN speak. Give the radio one second to "make the connection", or anyone listening will lose the first word of your sentence. There is no need to raise you voice or yell, a normal speaking voice works just fine.
- You radio's range can be decreased dramatically by being inside a car, standing in front of a refrigerator, or any metal surface. Standing near a window, or outside will INCREASE your radio's range.
- Saying "over" at the end of your transmission is a great way for the others receiving your message to know that you are finished.
- Sometimes for clarities' sake you may need to spell out a name or instruction. Using the accepted phonic alphabet can be a clear way of conveying what you mean.

Alpha, Bravo, Charlie, Delta, Echo, Foxtrot, Golf, Hotel, India, Juliet, Kilo, Lima, Mike, November, Oscar, Papa, Quebec, Romeo, Sierra, Tango, Uniform, Victor, Whiskey, X-ray, Yankee, Zulu

NET PROCEDURE:

Calling all stations. Your attention please, this is the Cypress Unit's FRS Network. The purpose of this net is for passing traffic, preparing operators for communications in the event of an emergency and to provide those with a common interest the opportunity to meet. This net meets monthly on the first Sunday of every month at 8:30 PM on FRS Channel 3. This is a directed net, please do not transmit unless directed to do so. Stations checking in are asked to remain on frequency until all traffic has been acknowledged and net business has been completed. Visiting stations will be checked in at the end of the net. This is (First name, last Initial) speaking for the Cypress ERC net. Is there any emergency traffic? Please come now. Are there any relays?

Hearing none we'll now take roll call:

Anyone from the {Unit Number} ready to check in, please call now. Are there any relays from stations that you heard that I did not acknowledge?

BP – C1 – C2 – C4 – C5 – CP

[Call out those names recorded (or relayed) to confirm receipt and ask for anyone missed, repeat process until list is complete.]

Are there any late or missed stations? -- Any relays? --- Are there any visitor stations? At this time are there any announcements, comments, or inquiries before we close the net? Please check in now.

I would like to thank all those who have participated in the net and for other stations keeping the frequency clear during the net. This net is scheduled the first Sunday of every month at 8:30 pm on FRS channel 3.

This is (First name, last Initial) net control closing our net at (state local time). Thank you to all, see you next month and invite a friend, have a pleasant evening. We return this frequency to its normal use.