TRAININGS · TRAINING RESOURCES

Radio Communication Protocols

Standard procedures for HAM and emergency radio operators supporting Lincoln County EMA during events and drills.

General Radio Etiquette

- Listen before transmitting — never key over another operator.
- Keep transmissions brief, clear, and relevant to the incident.
- Use plain language rather than codes or jargon that could be misunderstood.
- Identify yourself with your assigned call sign at the start and end of each transmission.
- Pause briefly after keying up before speaking, to avoid clipping the first word.

Standard Phonetic Alphabet

Use the NATO phonetic alphabet when spelling out names, locations, or identifiers: Alpha, Bravo, Charlie, Delta, Echo, Foxtrot, Golf, Hotel, India, Juliett, Kilo, Lima, Mike, November, Oscar, Papa, Quebec, Romeo, Sierra, Tango, Uniform, Victor, Whiskey, X-ray, Yankee, Zulu.

During an Activation

- Check in with net control at the start of your shift and check out when you're finished.
- Report your status changes (available, on task, off net) promptly.
- Relay only verified information — if you're unsure, say so rather than guessing.
- Keep a written log of significant transmissions if you're operating a net control or relay position.

Priority Traffic

Life-safety and emergency traffic always takes priority over routine communications. If you have urgent traffic, say "Break, break" clearly before your message to signal other operators to stand by.

Team Contact

Questions about frequencies, nets, or becoming a HAM operator for Lincoln County EMA? Contact the HAM Team Coordinator through the county office.