

WIRELESS RADIOS

In the U.S., the FCC regulates the frequencies that are used by devices like two-way radios.

At CERT in Walnut Creek, we primarily use battery operated Family Radio Service (FRS) and HAM radios to communicate during emergencies.

FRS RADIOS

- Require no end-user license
- Typically used by families, children, and campers to communicate.
- Use channel 8-14 in Walnut Creek (8 is the common channel for all CERT areas)
- Usually have the shortest range with averages of 0.5 to 1 mile.
- Not necessary to use ITU standard phonetics, i.e. A-Alpha, B-Bravo, etc.

HAM RADIOS

- FCC license is required.
- A popular hobby to talk across town, around the world or even into space, all without internet or cell phones.
- Use channels 16-99 (16 for W.C. CERT HAM repeater, 70-77 for Rossmoor)
- A handheld unit might range only a few miles while a base station on HF bands can bounce off the atmosphere to talk around the globe.
- Tactical call-in use ITU Standard Phonetics

FRS



HAM

GOLDEN RULES OF COMMUNICATING

- When using a HAM radio, we use ITU Standard Phonetics and our tactical call-sign to identify ourselves. e.g.: **KM6UCD** is called out as "*Kilo Mike 6 Uniform Charlie Delta*".
- Emergency communications always go first.
- We mostly listen, speak clearly and get the message across without using a lot of words.
- We are aware that we share a common radio channel. Since two people can't talk at the same time, one person, (**CONTROL**), directs whotalks next.
- To initiate communication we contact Command Post, (**CONTROL**), with our call sign. Command Post responds with our call sign and "*Go ahead, Over*".
- While communicating, we frequently use '*Copy*' to acknowledge, '*Repeat*' to request say again, '*Over*' at the end of our conversation and '*Clear*' to end our communication with Command Post.

To insure effective communications we use the attached **Field Team Message Form**, with particular attention to the areas highlighted.

The more **HAM** radio-trained volunteers at CERT, the more effective we can be in helping our community during emergencies. Please consider enrolling in the next **HAM Cram Class - *Pass the test to become a licensed HAM operator.***

When: June 1st at 7:30 A.M. in the Vista Room at Hillside. Please contact Dick Dubey: (925) 300 -3347, rdubey@sbcglobal.net.