

Lesson 1: Basic GMRS Etiquette

1. Listen and make sure the channel is not in use before transmitting
2. Don't interrupt a conversation in progress. Wait until their conversation is finished
3. If you have something to add to an already in progress conversation, say "Break" when the current transmitting station stops talking. Once acknowledged, state your call sign, name and your comment.
4. Do not respond if you aren't sure the call is for you.
5. Never transmit sensitive or confidential information
6. If you're calling another station directly, always start with their call sign first, then yours - ex " WYYY345, WZZZ123." A good way to remember this is to insert "this is" between the call sign and you'll never forget the order- ex "WYYY345 this is WZZZ123."
7. If you're not calling another station directly, the usual procedure is to announce your call sign and say "listening" or "monitoring" - ex "WZZZ123 monitoring."
8. If you are monitoring and another station identifies itself and asks for a radio check, you can reply WYYY345 this is WZZZ123, Your signal is -ex (Strong, Full Quieting), (Good, some static), (Weak, static). Full Quieting means you only hear voice, no static present with the voice transmission.
9. GMRS has two requirements per the FCC rule Part 95 and we will try to adhere to these. As you will see in the next lesson, we will be using "Tactical Call signs" which will simplify and enhance our effectiveness during nets, drills and real emergencies. For now, keep in mind the following FCC Part 95 Rules:
 - (a) The GMRS station call sign must be transmitted:
 - (1) Following a single transmission or a series of transmissions; and,
 - (2) After 15 minutes and at least once every 15 minutes thereafter during a series of transmissions lasting more than 15 minutes.
10. Tactical Call Signs: A tactical call sign is a designation that reflects a location or function. It is specific operator independent. Examples: "Zone 4 Lead", "Zone 4 Bravo", "Community Center", "AI EOC".

Example: Station 1: This is **WRMK208, Zone 4 Bravo** monitoring. Station 2: **Zone 4 Bravo** this is **WRZZ330, Zone 4 Lead**. Station 1: **Zone 4 Lead**, go ahead. Station 2: Hi there, Bill, I copy you with a strong signal, full quieting. Station 1: Hi Dave, thanks for the report, you also have a strong signal. Station 2: *The conversation continues... at approximately the 15 minute mark (or earlier) each station transmits:* Station 1: This is **WRMK208 for ID**, Station 2: This is **WRZZ330 for ID**. When the conversation is complete, both stations clear the frequency by each stating their call sign and then "is clear" - ex This is **WRMK208** clear. Other than these full call sign identifications times (in Bold), you can use first names or just the last 3 numbers in the call sign during an established exchange.

Let's Practice!

- 1) Review Basic Radio operation with participants.**
- 2) For those with GMRS licenses, have them use their radio, reinforcing where the PTT button is and speak into the radio microphone (show them the location of the microphone). Take turns saying "This is (GMRS Call Sign) , Monitoring"**
- 3) Same as 2) but have them transmit "This is (GMRS Call Sign) , for ID"**
- 4) Same as 2) but have them transmit "This is (GMRS Call Sign) Clear"**
- 5) Practice switching channels using 1-3 above**