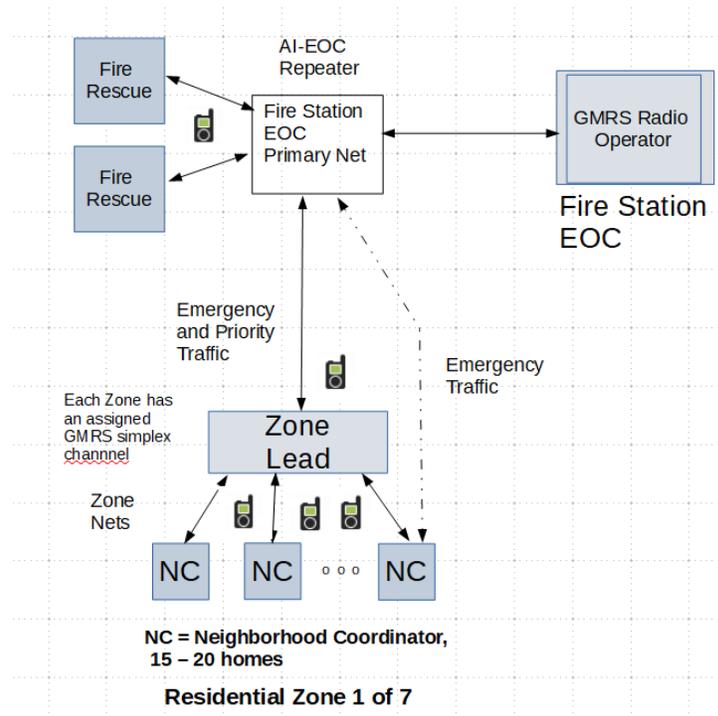


Lesson 2: Communication Flow, Tactical Call Signs, Zone Nets and Relays

Information will flow to/from island neighborhoods in two ways during an emergency: Via GMRS **Zone Nets** (Zone-1 through Zone-7) and **Fire Station EOC Primary Net** (AI-EOC Repeater).



What is a Net? Several stations on the same channel following some agreed procedures and directed by a single net control station.

What is a Net Control Station? A single station that moderates or directs net transmissions, ensuring prioritization of transmissions and reducing simultaneous transmissions by other net stations. Net Control will normally be the Zone Lead or designated team member.

Zone Nets: During a Zone Net, Zone Leads and Neighborhood Coordinators will identify and be identified with Tactical Call signs

What is a Tactical Call Sign? A tactical call sign is a designation that reflects a location or function. It is specific operator independent. Examples: "Zone 3 Lead", "Zone 3 Bravo", "Community Center", "EOC".

There are three Message Types: "Routine", "Priority", "Emergency". Routine: Normal Status, announcement, requires no action. Priority: Requires some action, but not immediate or life threatening. Emergency: Message concerns a situation where lives are endangered or gravely impacted. Immediate action is required.

What is meant by "Traffic" A message for the net with a message type associated with it is referred to as Traffic. A station checking or reporting into the net will have either "No Traffic" or "Traffic". If "Traffic", the reporting station will indicate number of messages and type, in order of precedence. Check in example: This is Zone 3 Delta with one(1) Priority and one (1) Routine traffic.

Relays: Net Control calls for Station 1, Net Control cannot receive Station 1. Station 2 can hear Station 1. Station 2 simply waits for a break in the transmissions and says “Relay” over the air. Net Control calls “Relay Go”. Station 2 identifies his Tactical call sign and then identifies Station 1 and relays the Station 1 traffic.

Using “Break”: In the event you need to interrupt a Net in progress, wait for a break in the transmissions, and say “Break”. Net control will acknowledge by saying “Go Break”. At this point, identify your station by using your tactical call, name and state your traffic.

The EOC Primary Repeater Channel Usage The repeater channel is our one island wide communications channel into the Fire Station. When activated during an emergency or drill, the Fire Station EOC Net Control operator will initiate an all Zone net. This net will remain active 24/7 during the emergency and will provide updates (usually every 30 minutes). Zone Leads will check into this net and provide periodic status when requested by the Net Control operator. It would be easy for this channel to become overwhelmed with traffic if no discipline is exercised by all operators. The following guidelines are to be followed to reduce the amount of traffic on the primary channel:

1. Traffic should flow from the Neighborhood Coordinators through the Zone Leads via the Zone Nets. This includes Emergency and Priority Traffic. The Zone Leads act to “triage” the traffic coming from their zones. If traffic can be handled at the zone level, this is preferred.
2. If the Neighborhood Coordinator has emergency traffic and the Zone Lead net control is not reachable, then the Neighborhood Coordinator can switch to the primary repeater channel and request assistance. Example: NC:AIEOC, this is Zone 5 Bravo with one (1) Emergency traffic. AIEOC: Zone 5 Bravo, proceed with your traffic. NC proceeds with emergency traffic directly to the EOC.
3. Quality of Information Any public service information or instructions for Anderson Island residence should only come from the Fire Station EOC. This information will be sent via the primary repeater channel and so will be available to any radio user including GRMS, FRS and emergency radios. It is vital and critical that no incorrect information, hearsay or unofficial guidance be broadcast using the EOC primary repeater channel.

Terms to Remember

Relay

Break

Tactical Call Sign

Net Control

Message Types: Routine, Priority, Emergency

Traffic

Let's Practice!

- 1) Review Radio operation, channel selection, PTT, Speaking into the HT Microphone
- 2) Have all participants change to a GMRS channel (Zone #) and each perform a comm check.
- 3) Practice Net, no traffic: Class facilitator go to another room and initiate a net. Instruct the class to listen for their Tactical Call sign and when heard, say (example) "This is Zone-3 Charlie, No traffic".
- 4) Practice Net, Routine, Priority, Emergency: Class facilitator go to another room and initiate a net. Instruct the class to listen for their Tactical Call sign and when heard, invite participants to create their own traffic message. It can be Routine, Priority or Emergency.

Example Practice Net Net Control: "Zone-3 Charlie" Participant: "This is Zone-3 Charlie with 1 Priority Traffic" Net Control: "Zone 3 Charlie, proceed with your traffic" Participant: "This is Zone-3 Charlie, there is a tree down block the road at the corner of Brandt Road and Clausen Road". Net Control: "Good Copy, A tree down at Brandt and Clausen, Rodger?" Participant: Rodger, Good Copy