

Talking over a Two-Way Radio is different than using a landline or cellphone. Two-way radios operate in "simplex mode," meaning you can talk or listen, but can't do both at the same time. Only one radio user talks, while others listen.

**The Nevada County
*Neighborhood Radio Watch***

Media Contact:

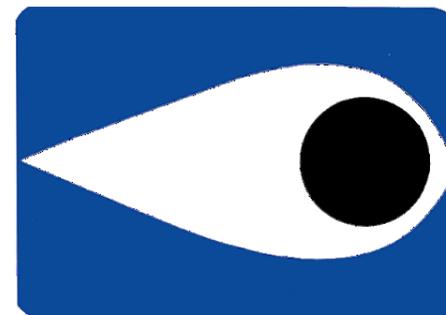
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Nevada County
Amateur Radio Emergency Service
NCARES
<https://nevadacountyares.org/>



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**Using your new
Two-Way Radio**



WE LOOK OUT FOR EACH OTHER™

Sponsored by:

**The Nevada County
Amateur Radio
Emergency Service**



Increasing Your Radio's Range

Two-way radios are generally "line of sight" devices but there are things you can do that will help increase your range: Use your radio outside instead of inside a building or vehicle. Find a higher elevation. Get clear of dense vegetation or trees between you and the other station. Be sure your radio is fully charged. Hold your radio no more than two inches from your face, with the antenna pointed vertically.

International Phonetic Alphabet

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

"Code words"

You may decide to use "Code words": "Code Blue" for a non-crucial incident, "Code Yellow" for a non-dangerous incident that still requires an immediate response, or "Code Red" for a dangerous or serious incident that requires an immediate response.

Radio Etiquette

Speak clearly and simply: Use easy to understand words. Think about what you want to say before speaking. Speak slowly and clearly. Use a normal voice. Yelling into your radio won't help get your message across sooner, further or clearer.

Identify Yourself and Recipient: Especially important with multiple users on the same channel.

Wait for Confirmation: Wait to ensure your intended recipient has heard you and that they're available. Once confirmed, begin your message.

Keep Messages short: Get to the point. To relay long messages, let your audience know at the start.

Break long messages into parts. This also reduces wear and tear on your radio, and overheating.

Avoid Private or Sensitive Information: Radio channels are shared. If you don't want others to hear something then don't say it.

Don't Interrupt: If another radio user is talking, wait for them to stop transmitting. Repeatedly pressing the Push-to-Talk (PTT) button only causes interference. Emergency messages are the ONLY exception. Then, you should announce "Break, Break!" and wait to be recognized.

Listen for your Call Sign or Name: Unless you know a call is for you, do not reply.

Acknowledge Direct Contacts: If another radio user is trying to contact you directly, acknowledge the call with either a "Go ahead" (indicating you are ready to receive) or a "Standby" (indicating you need a minute before you can engage).

Remember to Pause: When pressing the PTT button, there may be a short delay before your radio transmits. Wait two seconds before speaking to ensure the start of your message is received.

Don't use Slang or Bad Language.

Make Routine Radio Checks: Make sure your radio is working properly. Check that batteries are charged and your radio is on.

Above all, have Fun with your new Radio!

Radio Lingo

Roger That: "Message received and understood"

Roger So Far: Confirming part way through a long message that you've understood the message so far

Affirmative: Yes

Negative: No

Come In: Asking another party to acknowledge they can hear you

Go Ahead: I am ready for your message

Say Again: Repeat all of your last message

Say All Before/After: Repeat all before/after a certain phrase or word if you didn't catch part of the message

Over: Message finished, inviting others to respond if needed

Out: Conversation is finished, no answer is required or expected

Radio Check: What's my signal strength? Can you hear me?

Read You Loud And Clear: Your transmission signal is good, I can hear you fine

Wilco: Abbreviation of "I will comply", means the speaker will complete the task that's been asked of them

Break, Break!: Interruption to a transmission to communicate urgently

Emergency, Emergency!: Distress call, only to be used when there is an imminent danger to life and immediate assistance is required

Stand By: Wait for a short period and I will get back to you

Wait Out: Delay is longer than I expected, I'll get back to you as soon as possible

I Spell: The next word will be spelled out using the International Phonetic Alphabet (see Side Bar)