

PUBLIC SERVICE EVENT “HINTS” LIST

Here is a list of that may help when preparing for ARES Public Service Events, Drills, or when working actual disasters. This list is in no way complete or in anyway a list of required equipment or activities. It is just a friendly reminder of some of the things we forget when we don't operate everyday.

1. Make sure your radio works prior to the event.
2. Make sure your batteries are charged and ready to go.
3. Make sure all frequencies, tones, offsets, ect are programmed into the memory.
4. If your assigned location is in a noisy environment, you might want to use headset/boom mike or some combination. Noise canceling microphones will help eliminate the background noise. If you don't have this equipment, you might want to advise the person making assignments when you volunteer.
5. If your assigned location is in an area surrounded by buildings, or in a low spot in relation to the repeater, you may want to use some type of gain antenna. It will improve your signal.
6. Be aware of your surroundings. Know the streets near your location. This will help if there is a situation close by that requires someone to provide information to Net Control, Police or Rescue.
7. Be familiar with your assigned Tactical Call. LISTEN!
8. When contacting Net Control, wait for them to acknowledge you. There may be two stations, one having higher priority traffic. Wait until Net Control acknowledges you before you start transmitting.
9. Be familiar with and use “Keywords”. This will help Net Control to determine the priority of your traffic. It will also alert other operators of high priority traffic.
10. ALWAYS advise Net Control when you are going to be away from the radio, when you return and when you secure your station.
11. If you are calling 9-1-1 from your cell phone, advise Net Control. If you need Net Control to contact 9-1-1, advise them of the EXACT location, nature of emergency, male or female patient and any other pertinent information. This will eliminate duplicate calls to 9-1-1 and will eliminate Net Control from having to ask you questions while talking to the 9-1-1-dispatcher.
12. LISTEN! LISTEN! LISTEN!
13. Keep traffic short and to the point. Others may have emergency traffic and will have to wait for the frequency to clear.
14. If you are advised that you are unreadable, find a better location; use more power, or what ever it takes to become readable. It is useless to just continue to try without making an effort to improve your signal. It is frustrating to you and Net Control.
15. LISTEN! LISTEN! LISTEN!
16. “Q” signals are not meant to be used with phone communications, they are meant to be used with CW. Use plain English. This is the recommended procedure for phone nets not only by the ARRL but the Mobile Maritime Service Net is asking that “Q” signals be eliminated from all phone nets.