

## Radio Procedures and Etiquette

Channels are:

1= State Comm 1 (Try this one if #2 doesn't connect)

2= State Comm 2 (Start with this Channel)

3= talk about (Radio to Radio)

4= talk about (Radio to Radio)

**Ensure you are on StateComm Frequency 2**, depress the talk button and wait 2-3 seconds before speaking. By waiting 2-3 seconds you will assure that the beginning of your radio transmission is not cut off. The microwave system needs 2-3 seconds of time to open up the frequency on the mountain top base station your radio will be transmitting from.

To begin your radio transmission “StateComm, Back Country Horseman Portable XX” and then release the talk button. Wait for StateComm to answer you before continuing with any more information. If StateComm does not respond within 20 seconds try the radio call again. There are times when StateComm is busy with other radio traffic or emergency phone lines and cannot get to the radio quickly to answer you or possible the transmission did not make it through to StateComm.

Once StateComm has acknowledged your call, proceed with your communications, always making sure to wait 2-3 seconds for the microwave base station to open. Speak slowly and clearly so that information can be obtained by the dispatcher.

StateComm repeats information received to ensure that all information they gathered is correct. This is your opportunity to clarify any information or correct misinformation.

If the situation is a medical or traumatic emergency the StateComm dispatchers will dispatch ground ambulances and air ambulances if necessary. The StateComm dispatchers will also ask you a series of questions to better determine what condition the patient is in and provide any emergency medical assistance needed until EMS arrives. This is called Emergency Medical Dispatching and asks such questions as:

Tell me exactly what happened.

Is the patient breathing?

Is the patient conscious?

Age and gender

Your GPS location – otherwise life flight will not come!

Questions specific to the problem being reported.

These questions provide great information for the EMS crew and can also help StateComm identify if an air ambulance should be launched to the scene. The StateComm dispatchers can provide CPR instructions, bleeding control instructions, and other vital instructions/assistance over the radio.

If the radio communication is an emergency situation (in need of medical help or other emergency responders, i.e. fire or law enforcement) state on the radio “StateComm, Back County Horseman Portable XX, Emergency Traffic”. This will alert the StateComm dispatcher that a serious situation exists.

If the radio communication is for a radio check state this in the opening communication. “State Comm, Back Country Horseman Portable XX, radio check”.

This allows the dispatcher to know that someone is simply wanting to make sure they have radio communications with us and that no emergency exists.

If you hear other radio traffic taking place when you are wanting to talk to StateComm wait for a lull in the radio traffic before trying to call, otherwise your radio transmission may not be heard or your radio transmission “steps on” (overpowers) the other communications taking place.

Most importantly, remember this frequency is used for emergency communications, dispatching of ambulances and other emergency responders, paging of health and homeland security officials and such. It is not for lengthy conversations or unnecessary “chatter”. The best rule of thumb, keep it short, sweet and to the point. And the biggest thing to remember when radioing for help, an emergency on someone else’s part does not constitute an emergency on yours. Keep calm and work with StateComm to get all important information relayed quickly so that the appropriate responders can be dispatched to help you and the situation taking place.