

Transmitting Hints:

Make sure that you are using the correct channel and frequency. Listen for 15-30 seconds to make sure transmission traffic is clear. If someone is using the frequency, wait for both parties to clear their traffic. Formulate your message before you begin transmitting. Compose a concise, easily understood message. Remember that other people will be monitoring your message.

Press the PTT (Push To Talk) switch. The transmit indicator will light. Hold the PTT for one second, then call the person or base station you wish to speak to and identify yourself. Example: If you are AR Unit 51 and want to contact the Animal Shelter Leader, you would say "Animal Shelter - AR UNIT 51". Release the PTT. Wait for them to respond. If you do not receive a response in 10-15 seconds, repeat the call. After your call is acknowledged ("Animal Shelter"), press the PTT and speak your message in a normal voice with the radio in an upright position and the microphone 1-2 inches from your mouth. The antennae should be perpendicular to the ground and not shielded by your body. Speak distinctly and clearly using clear text words and phrases. Do not shout or speak too fast. Long messages should be broken into segments. Stop at a logical point and say "break". Release the PTT, wait a few seconds, then continue the message. ("AR Unit 51 continuing with report on conditions...") When the communication is complete, sign off with your designator ("AR Unit 51") and the word "CLEAR". Keep all communications to the point and as brief as possible. Do Not Tie Up The Airwaves.

If you do not get a response from your radio call or don't hear anything for a long time.

Check your volume and squelch.

Check to make sure that you are on the correct channel and frequency.

Try moving around a little. Go to a little higher ground.

If your radio has a transmit light make sure it stays on while transmitting.

Ask if anyone else can hear you. They can relay a message.