

Blues Crew - Two-Way Radio Etiquette

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Blues Crew radios are licensed by the FCC under the General Mobile Radio System (GMRS) under Barbara Hetrick FRN 0032503203, Call sign assigned is WRTE282. There are 6 GM-30 radios, each with an extra rechargeable battery. 4 have holsters, 2 have belt clips. Each user is part of a family group – your call sign is your first name. Alternatively, you can number Teams and use Team Numbers as call signs (Team 1, Team 2...)

When using a two-way radio, **you cannot speak and listen at the same time** as you can with a phone.

Don't interrupt if you hear other people talking. Wait until their conversation is finished, *unless it is an emergency*.

Do not respond if you aren't sure the call is for you. Wait until you hear your call sign (or *All Teams*) to respond.

Perform radio checks to ensure your radio is in good working condition.

Ensure the battery is charged and the power is on.

Keep the volume high enough to be able to hear calls.

Regularly make radio checks to make sure everything is working and that you are still in range to receive signals.

Use the primary designated channel, but if no transmissions verified – switch to secondary channel.

Think before you speak.

Decide what you are going say and to whom it is directed.

Make your conversations as concise, precise, and clear as possible.

Avoid long and complicated sentences. If your message is long, divide it into separate shorter messages.

Do not use abbreviations unless they are well understood by your group.

Speaking The Language

TERMS	MEANING
Radio Check	What is my signal strength? Can you hear me?
I read you loud & clear	Response to "Radio Check." Means the transmission signal is good.
Go Ahead	You are ready to receive transmission.
Come in	You are asking the other party to acknowledge they hear you.
Affirmative	Same as "Yes." Avoid "yup" or "nope" as they are difficult to hear.
Negative	Same as "No."
Say Again	Requesting other re-transmit their message.
Copy	You understand what was said.
Stand-by	You acknowledge the other party, but are unable to respond immediately.
Roger or Ten Four	Message received and understood.
Over	My sentence is finished. Period.
Out	All conversation is finished, the channel is clear for others to use.
Break, Break, Break	You are interrupting in the middle of communication because you have an emergency.
Repeat	Used before you repeat data. ex: "I require 5, repeat 5 , gallons of diesel fuel. Over"
Wilco	I will comply.
"All Teams"	Caller is requesting a response from all associated work teams – each check in.

4 Golden Rules of Radio Communication

1. **Clarity:** Your diction should be clear. Speak a little slower than normal. Speak in a normal tone, do not shout.
2. **Simplicity:** Keep your message simple enough for intended listeners to understand.
3. **Brevity:** Be precise and to the point.
4. **Security:** Do not transmit confidential information on a radio. Remember, frequencies are shared, you do not have exclusive use of the frequency.

Making a Call - Follow these easy steps to make a call.

1. First listen **to ensure the channel is clear** for you.
2. **Press and hold the PTT** (Push-To-Talk) button.
3. After 2 seconds: **Say "Recipient's call sign"(twice)** followed by **"This is [my call sign], Over"**
4. Once the person replies, **convey your message** – finish each segment with "Over."
5. **When finished with the needed interaction, signal "Out."**

Here's a typical radio conversation:

You: "Harvey, Harvey – this is Constance - Come in, Over"
Recipient: "Constance, This is Harvey - Go Ahead, Over"
You: *Say your message and then say:* "Over"
Recipient: "Roger Wilco, Over"
You: "This is Constance, Out"

Did you notice how at the beginning and end of the transmission you use **call signs (names)?**

Because there can sometimes be many people listening on the frequency, announcing your call sign and the call sign of the party you are calling lets everyone know to whom the transmission is directed. Communicating this way might feel a little odd at first, but with practice it will start to feel natural.

Another example: When you reach your team's work location, you do a radio check.

"All Teams, All Teams, This is Team 4 - Radio Check, Over"
"Team 1 – I read you loud and clear, Over" "Team 2 – I read you loud and clear, Over" "Team 3....."

Emergency Calls: You have an emergency message and need to interrupt others' conversations:

Wait and listen until you hear "Over".

Press PTT and say: "BREAK, BREAK, BREAK, this is [my call sign], I have an emergency message for [recipient's call sign], Do you copy? Over."