

Ham Radio Repeater Etiquette Guidelines

When you wish to communicate on a frequency, listen for a while before talking, there may be a conversation in progress.

If you are listening and would like to have a conversation, just give your call sign. You can add "monitoring", or "listening". Using the term "CQ" on a repeater is generally discouraged. If you're on DMR, people usually add what Talk Group they're on.

Speak like you were talking to someone face to face. Key the mike, and then start to talk.

Don't start speaking as you key the mic. Repeaters have a short delay before transmitting. If you start speaking too soon, your first few words may not be heard. Make sure you have finished talking before you un-key the mic. Give your call sign clearly, and slowly.

Use plain English and avoid jargon as much as possible. Q-codes are a morse code short hand. They are sometimes used on SSB in hf contesting and on field day, but should not be used on repeaters. Common examples are: QSL, QSY, QRT, XYL.

Avoid phonetics unless asked to do so. When using phonetics, use standard phonetics. "alpha, bravo, charlie"... Etc. Phonetics are commonly used when checking into nets.

If you want to join into a conversation, just give your call between transmissions rather than using the term "break break". You should be acknowledged and allowed into the conversation.

If you want to talk to a certain person, call them using their call sign once or twice, then your call sign. If they don't answer clear the repeater or say you are monitoring.

In an emergency, give your call and say "emergency" rather than using "break break". Saying "emergency" will make it clear why you are interrupting. It will also get more attention from those just listening.

Make sure you ID (state your call sign) according to the rules. If you are using a repeater system, the repeater has a timer so that it can id every 10 minutes. Whenever you hear the repeater id; that is a good time to send yours.

When you are ready to clear the repeater, just give your callsign and say you are clear. You do not have to give the the other persons callsign.

Try to avoid "ker-chunking" a repeater. That means keying up your radio for just a moment so that the repeater transmits. If you want to make sure you are transmitting okay, just give your call sign and ask for a radio check.

Have fun. These are just a few pointers to help you sound like an old pro.

Please Note: This radio is only licensed for use on Amateur Radio Frequencies. It should only be used on the Marine Radio Channels in an Emergency.

Radio can be programmed via CHIRP shareware software program:

<https://chirp.danplanet.com/projects/chirp/wiki/Home>

Search for "UV-5R Programming Cable" on eBay. Baofeng BL-5 spare Battery also on eBay.