

Andrews Radio User Guide

WHO SHOULD USE RADIOS?

Individuals and crews working at the HJA should carry Forest Service Radios. They are intended to allow communication with HJA HQ for work-related matters and with HJA HQ or Eugene Dispatch for emergencies. Individuals working alone are urged in the strongest terms to always pack a radio and keep it on while in the field.

CHECKOUT:

Radios are available at the HJA HQ from 8:00 through 5:00 pm weekdays. Outside these times you must prearrange pick up of the radio through phone (541) 822-6300 or email hjafacilities@fsl.orst.edu. One extra backup battery will be available. Radios returned after hours can be checked back in in the library.

HOW TO USE THE RADIO:

Communication on Repeaters Frissell (1), Indian Ridge (2), and Buck Mountain (3) can be heard throughout the ranger district and misuse of the radio can have serious consequences. Always be professional.

Before you leave the compound check the radio. Turn the dial to the Buck Mountain repeater (Channel 3). Make sure the three toggle switches on the top of the radio are down. Turn the OFF/VOLUME dial clockwise to its midpoint. Turn the CG/SQ dial clockwise until there is a burst of static noise, and then turn slightly counterclockwise until the noise stops. Adjust the volume up or down.

When in the field the radio should be kept with you and ON. This allows you to hear someone attempting to contact you. It also allows you to hear warnings of severe weather, fire danger, or requests for help where you may be the closest possible responder. The battery should allow at least 8 hours of operation.

TO CALL:

It is very important not to disrupt other communication on the radio so wait for a time when no one else is speaking. Press the textured rubber pad on the left of the radio, a light should come on at the top of the radio, hold the radio 6 inches from your mouth and speak in a normal voice. Press the pad at least 2 seconds before you start to speak. After speaking release the rubber pad.

State who you wish to call, followed by your last name, e.g., ANDREWS FOREST.... SMITH. If you get no response in 10 seconds repeat your call. If you get no response this time clear the airway by stating "NO CONTACT ...SMITH... CLEAR"

In an emergency situation when you wish to contact anyone you say "ANYONE ON THIS CHANNEL...SMITH". When you cannot reach the Andrews Forest call McKenzie River Ranger Station, Eugene Dispatch (or LIN-COM for after hours emergency assistance).

Intra-crew communication of significant duration should be on channel 4 or 5 to keep the main channel open for official communications. Arrange the switch of channel while speaking on channel #1, 2 or 3. Once you have established contact, say "GO TO CHANNEL 4 (or 5)". Crews that regularly need radio communication should use project walkie-talkies to avoid overuse of the USFS channels.

To get comfortable, try a RADIO CHECK. Say "ANDREWS FOREST... SMITH...RADIO CHECK". When they answer that they heard you say "THANK YOU ...SMITH ...CLEAR".