

Preparing!

This guide outlines a basic plan for individuals to communicate with the outside world when phones won't work.



Why Radios Are Best!

In a disaster, normal communication avenues (land line and cell phones) could be destroyed, damaged or overwhelmed.

A walkie-talkie-type radio will allow you to communicate within your neighborhood when phones are unavailable. Basic radios to consider for neighborhood use are *family radio service* (FRS) radios.

How FRS Radios Work

FRS radios allow us to talk on UHF frequencies. You may remember UHF as old TV frequencies received on a "rabbit-ear" antenna commonly used before cable and satellite TV.

FRS radios have 14 possible UHF channels plus many privacy codes. The use of a UHF channel plus one unique privacy code should allow you to talk around your neighborhood without interference from nearby neighborhood radios.

Be aware there is no assurance of privacy when using a privacy code. You are talking over open airwaves.

Clear Reception: Question: My 12-mile radio can't reach my neighbor, why?

Answer: Clear radio reception is dependent on a "**clear line of sight**" between two or more radios. Hills, valleys and buildings can keep your FRS radio from reaching your intended person(s).



- **DO NOT** try to communicate through a hill or up out of a valley
- **DO** go outside if possible
- **DO** go to open clear areas if possible
- **DO** go to high ground if possible
- **DO** go to a window if you can't go outside

FRS Radio & Power Supply

When purchasing an emergency radio, consider radios that use commonly available battery types and sizes: AAA or AA. Store unopened batteries with radio but not in radio to avoid dead batteries or corrosion inside the radios. Unopened, these batteries have about a 7-year shelf-life.



Radio Operation:

- **DO** hold radio with the antenna straight up; it greatly improves how well you're heard.
- **Only** one person should speak at a time. Otherwise, your radio will pick up multiple broadcasts causing garbled communication.
- **DO** gather your info & coordinate your thoughts before you speak.
- **DO** depress the *push-to-talk* button & begin with your name and location followed by your message.
- **DO** say "**OVER**" so others know you're done, then release the *push-to-talk* button.
- **DO** repeat your message if asked. Radios sometimes have bad reception.
- **DO** speak slowly and clearly so you are understood.

Common Radio Anatomy



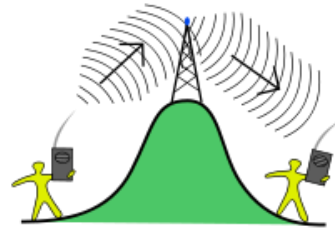
Prepared Neighborhoods!

Jefferson County has more than 125 registered emergency preparedness neighborhoods organized by Local 20/20s Neighborhood Preparedness Action Group. Is yours one? To find out, type the following in your internet browser bit.ly/jc-ncs-radio.

Emergency FRS "Call" Channel!

9-1-1 is always your first phone call for help. When phones don't work, try your FRS radio on channel 14. Volunteers may be close by and listening, but no guarantees. Additional information at bit.ly/jc-ncs-hail.

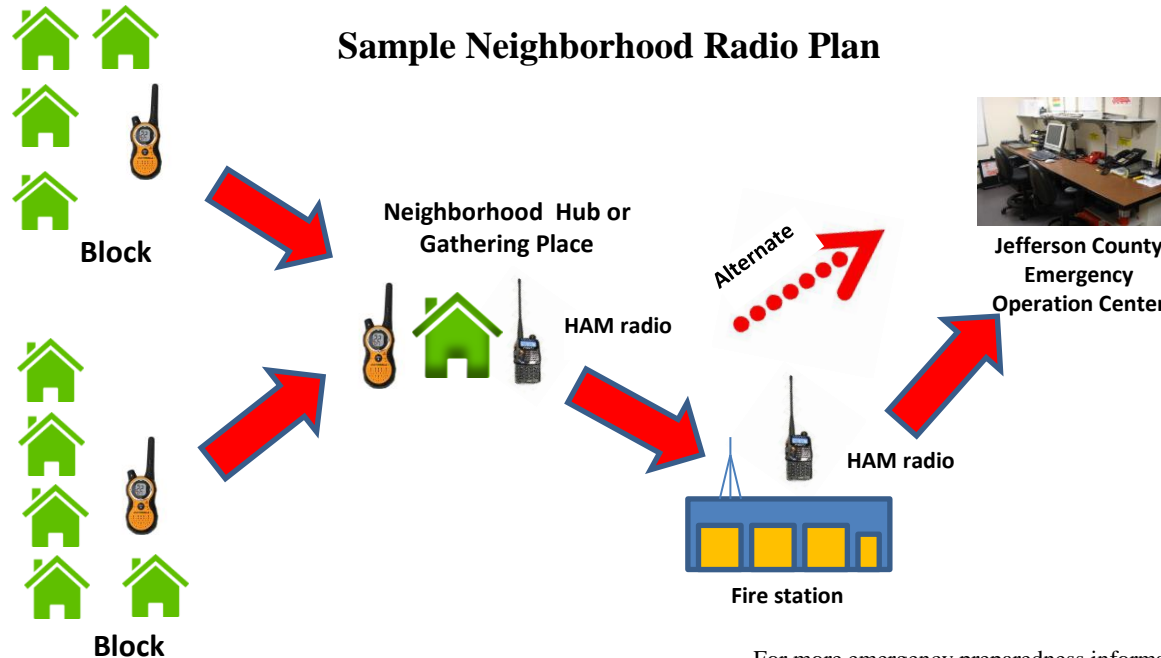
More Powerful Radios: There are more powerful radios that allow communication over large distances, over hills and out of valleys. One kind is a HAM radio and requires a Federal Communication Commission license that is easy to acquire. To learn more about free classes go to bit.ly/jc-ham-class or call Jefferson County Emergency Management at 360-385-9368.



EMERGENCY RADIO COMMUNICATION FOR EVERYONE



*"...Information is (Given) Out,
Communication is Getting Through"*
Sydney J. Harris



Plan for Communications
Practice it *Before* a Disaster Hits



For more emergency preparedness information go to: www.jeffcoec.org/Library