

Radio Etiquette:

How should I talk on the radio?

Hold the mic directly in front you with the mic facing you and 4-6 inches away from your mouth. Talk in a normal voice. DO NOT YELL INTO THE MIC!! This simply does not help. Be aware of your surroundings when talking on the radio and avoid unnecessary background noise. Give your message in plain language so everyone fully understands what you are talking about. We have gotten into some strange habits with ten codes many times not even saying "10".

A conversation on the radio should be much like a conversation in person just shortened. When someone says something to you, reply with an acknowledgement. (Copy, Unit # then "Copy", Copy That etc...) When announcing yourself on the radio use your municipal identifier (Dodgeville Engine 1 to...) and continue to use this when initiating any conversation. Use it also when giving an initial reply. (Dodgeville Engine 1 to Ridgeway Fire 1 ---- Ridgeway Fire 1, Go ahead). This assures that everyone knows who they are talking to.

These guidelines apply to all disciplines. If you listen to radio traffic that is not using these guidelines, you will hear a lot of unnecessary radio traffic.

Calling other units or Dispatch:

I can't tell you how many times I have heard a unit call into dispatch with a 15 second transmission only to be told by the dispatcher to repeat it because they were on another channel or on the telephone.

When needing to speak with another unit or a dispatcher, it is always best to call for their attention first before going on with your message. Example: 781 to Iowa Comm - wait for their response, then go ahead with your message. Iowa County's Dispatchers answer all phone calls coming into the Sheriff's Office. More often than not they are involved in another conversation when you call in. Never assume they are just waiting for you to say something.