

BASIC RADIO ANATOMY

Avoid turning your radios on, as the amount of noise is liable make the class very chaotic.

The type of communications device recommended for purchase by CERT volunteers interested in radio communications is _____.

This recommendation is *not a requirement*. The recommendation should be in accordance with the CERT Communications Plan.

The first thing you should do with a radio before using it is **READ THE MANUAL!**

Owners should practice using the radios regularly to be familiar with the two-way radio when it is needed.



BASIC RADIO ANATOMY (CONTINUED)

The basic controls on the radio include:

- On/off switch
- Volume control
- PTT button (Push to talk)
 - You must press down the PTT button while you are speaking.
 - Remind participants that they must release the button to listen!
- Antenna: Hold it vertical for best reception
- Speaker
- Microphone



BASIC RADIO ANATOMY (CONTINUED)

The advanced features of the radio include:

- Battery location
- Channel selector
- Channel monitor
- Headset input jack
- Privacy line selector
- Lock button
- Transmit call tone

Additional features on the radio include:

- Monitor button
- Ring tone selector
- Power settings selector

BATTERY LOCATION

Find the location of the battery on the radio. Learn how to change the battery and how to recharge the battery. Find out whether battery substitution is possible.

A radio is practically unusable while it is charging; therefore you should always carry extra batteries when working with the radio. Avoid overcharging the radio, as this can damage the unit!

SAFETY NOTE: Never attempt to recharge alkaline batteries!

PRIVACY CODES

Most radios are equipped with a privacy line selector. Despite what the name suggests, these “privacy codes” do not make your conversation private. All a privacy code does is block you from hearing other conversations on that channel.

Privacy codes are not standard between different brands of radio. Privacy codes are not recommended for CERT use.

BASIC RADIO ANATOMY (CONTINUED)

Practical Exercise: Using a Radio

Purpose: This short exercise allows you to practice using your radios.

Instructions:

1. You have 3 minutes to turn on the radios and experiment with their use.
2. If you are using FRS/GMRS hybrid radios, remain on FRS-only channels.

In the next part of the lesson, you will learn how to use the radios in an activation.