

Why Zones are Important

This short education segment briefly explains zones and one reason why they are critically important to our overall disaster communications strategy.

We have one GMRS channel – 119 (also called GMRS19R) - that is a repeater channel. This channel covers a wider area, so that most of us throughout the 3 communities should be able to hear it.

Other GMRS channels are more limited in range because they are ‘line of sight’ and signals may be blocked by hills.

Taking local geography into account, our 3 communities are divided into 9 zones. Each zone is assigned a specific GMRS channel.

Everyone within a zone should be able to communicate with others in that zone using their assigned Zone GMRS channel.

For example: zone 1 uses channel 101, zone 2 uses channel 102, etc.

In an emergency GMRS communications would be handled something like this:

The EVC and emergency response coordinators will use 119 to communicate. Everyone can listen to this channel for information.

I repeat: The EVC and emergency response coordinators will use 119 to communicate. Everyone can listen to this channel for information.

Residents in each zone will communicate with one another using their assigned zone channel.

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A designated individual from each zone (the Zone Net Communicator) will communicate with EVC emergency response coordinators on behalf of the residents in their zone.

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This approach will be important in a disaster to help keep 119 clear for emergency coordination while allowing critical information about our neighborhood zones to be heard.

On the June 22nd GMRS Net, we will check in by Zone and then go to our Zone channels to practice a brief Zone Net.

Be sure to tune in next week to practice and learn!

If you are interested in learning more:

We have YR classes: YR 101, the basics of using your YR; and YR 102 focusing on the utilization of Zone Communication and protocols -- YR101 a prerequisite.

If you are interested email yellowradio@evcnb.org and we will sign you up!

This concludes our brief educational segment for this evening.