

The Importance of using OVER

YR Net Educational Moment, 4/5/2018

Saying “over” when you have completed each transmission is much more than just radio etiquette or common culture.

It is actually a very important aspect of proper procedure when using our Yellow Radios. It is one of the reasons we like to practice each week!

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As you will remember from your Yellow Radio 101 class, all radios allow only one transmission at a time on a given channel.

So when you say, “Over” you are saying, “I’m done talking and I’m turning over this channel to someone else to speak.” Because we use Directed Nets, we are usually returning the channel to our Zone Net Control, who is directing the Net.

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Being on a Directed Net also means that all users should wait patiently until they are INVITED by the Net Control to speak.

For example, Net Control may say, “Would anyone like to check-in? Please do so now. Over.”

Pause a second to make sure no one else is talking, then you can press your talk button and say, “Net Control, this is John Q, checking in. Over”

Net Control should always acknowledge this communication. For example, “John Q, this is Net Control. You are loud and clear. Thank you. Please monitor and standby until the end of this exercise. Is anyone else ready to check in? Over.”

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So, please remember to ALWAYS say “over” when you are done speaking.

Everyone should wait for Net Control to acknowledge the caller and then for the Net Control to invite a new person to speak.

Waiting patiently for an invitation to speak is far more than being polite.

It is the ONLY WAY that the system can work effectively.

Otherwise, only static will be heard and the communication will be unsuccessful.

Another way to be sure that the channel is available is to watch for the LED on your radio to turn off. If the LED light is **GREEN**, someone else is transmitting, and if you try to transmit it's likely neither of you will be heard. Remember, with the Yellow Radio, **GREEN** actually means **STOP** (do not transmit).

If Net Control invites you specifically to speak (by name or call sign) ALWAYS respond promptly.

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Unless you are super busy, it is best to listen until the exercise is concluded by the Net Control.

This is partly so you can help if case Net Control could not hear someone. If you are able to hear someone attempting several times to call in, but Net Control does not acknowledge them, it's likely that Net Control can't hear them.

You can then check-in again and repeat what you heard to Net Control. Example: “Net Control this is John Q with a relay. Over.”

When acknowledged by the Zone Net Control, you can relay the information of the person who was unsuccessfully trying to contact Net Control.

Example: "Net Control John Q noting Paul K was trying to contact Net Control. Over."

This is called a RELAY and is also a very important part of using yellow radios to communicate in an emergency situation. More on this subject in future educational moments.

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We encourage you to practice these important elements of yellow radio communications.

If you have any comments or questions about tonight's Educational Moment, please direct them to your Zone Net Control. Thank you for listening in.

This now concludes the Educational Moment for this week.