

YR Net Ed Moment, 4/26/2018

The importance of following and practicing communications protocols

During my tenure of being a police officer and later an EMT, Firefighter and Fire Chief I learned the importance of following and practicing communications protocols.

As you know, the Yellow Radio Net is a directed net meaning all of the communication goes through Net Control. There is a specific reason for this protocol.

During an emergency or disaster, things tend to get a bit hectic. There is so much status to be reported, and if there were no protocols, everyone would be talking at once and there would be no intelligent communications. Net controls roll is one of a traffic cop. One transmission at a time.

Also, during an emergency or disaster, individuals get excited and stressed. When a person gets excited and stressed a person's ability to think clearly gets diminished. This is why the Yellow Radio net practice sessions on Thursday nights are so important. You really need to become so proficient on Yellow radio communication that it becomes second nature to you. You won't even have to think about it.

Practice at home with your wife, husband or dog. Practice the magic words. Over, Out, Monitoring, Affirmative/Negative, Will Do, Say Again, Copy That and Break-Break. Let these terms become second nature to you.

One more thing worth mentioning. Radio traffic is at a premium during an emergency or disaster. Think about what you are going to say and keep your transmissions short, concise and to the point.