

Hot Tips

Good info for the new ham, and old stuff to refresh your memory



Monitoring frequencies during a nearby incident

Once in a while an incident occurs, but in another county, or is not large enough to label it a local emergency or to disrupt cell phone operation. These can include an earthquake, chemical spill, a large storm, and out-of-area flood. Although they might not affect you very much right away, or at your current location, the disaster potential might be real enough to worry you, especially if a loved one lives in the affected region.

Essentially, you're in a **non-life-threatening** situation. Everybody near you seems alright, they haven't lost consciousness, have minor injuries or aren't bleeding much, they seem emotionally stable, and there's simply no need to call an ambulance. At times like that, we tend to want information, like how big the nearby incident is, how you should respond, if at all, where you should go, and how to best reassure others.

Similar to what happened during the last earthquake, because we were not in a truly emergent situation, yet somewhat involved in a relatively minor way, there was not really a need to activate emergency protocols; just had to collect a few reports. As a result, the emergency frequencies we had mentioned in previous trainings were fairly irrelevant to the situation. So, what *can* or *should* we listen to?

Tune to local, most popular repeater frequencies, plus a locally accessible repeater system. Often, when an incident occurs, a previously designated operator will start a net going on one of them, and ask for people from all over to check in and report conditions at their locations. In spite of the mis-information potential, they might just give you the most information from those who are experiencing the incident first-hand.

When the recent earthquake hit, one person assumed Net Control on the [Intertie](#), started a

net, and asked for reports from all over Utah. Many people checked in, reported the conditions at their locations, and gradually helped paint us a large mental map of what was or was not happening where, as a result of the earthquake. It was a good and quick way to get a little peace-of-mind, when the broadcast news agencies could not say anything more than what was officially released to them, which was sparse at first.

Here are some recommended frequencies:

Utah County

- 146.760- repeater
- 147.120+ (100.0 Hz) repeater
(Intermountain Intertie)

Salt Lake County

- 146.620- repeater
- 147.120+ (100.0 Hz) repeater
(Intermountain Intertie)

Emergency broadcast radio channels

- 102.7 FM (KSL-FM)
- 1160 AM (KSL-AM)

Police, sheriff, fire, and EMS (emergency medical services) frequencies, which include, but are not limited to, the following:

- 851.600 MHz : Utah Public Safety (all)
- 154.860 MHz : N Utah County Sheriff
- 156.135 MHz : S Utah County Sheriff
- 155.235 MHz : Search and Rescue

Search out and find the same or similar kinds of frequencies where you live, including popular repeaters and statewide [repeater systems](#), if you have them. *Please remember to not interrupt an emergency communication unless it's truly necessary.*