

D-RATS OPERATING GUIDE

Purpose

The purpose of this document is to propose a standard procedure for EmComm operators using D-Star/D-Rats to follow during an emergency. This procedure will specify in Detail how to set up D-Rats, how to pass traffic to the Red Cross and other served agencies and avoid interfering with other D-Star users trying to simultaneously pass traffic.

EmComm operators using D-Rats must monitor and pay attention to traffic on the repeater or the simplex frequency, before transmitting digital data. The operator must announce on the frequency, when it is CLEAR that they have traffic. The operator must stand by until the frequency is clear to pass their traffic. Please do not talk on the frequency while the data is being transmitted. After the traffic has been passed, announce that the repeater is clear so it can be used by someone else that needs to send traffic.

Our purpose is to coordinate the passing of messages to avoid collisions. If you do not follow these procedures, data is not going to get thru reliably.

It is your responsibility to insure your message gets to it's served agency.

This procedure will work with 6 to 10 operators and will require no NCS.

A NET will be called by the D-Star EmComm coordinators (N6USP or N3EH) when the net grows in considerable size and a NCS is deemed necessary to coordinate passing of messages to avoid collisions.

EXAMPLE:

This is N4ABC I have traffic, please stand by. *(Nobody needs to knowledge this).*
This will alert everybody on the repeater to stand by while you pass your traffic.

This is N4ABC, frequency is clear.
This tells everybody monitoring the repeater that it is clear for someone else to pass their traffic.

Keep it Short & Simple:

Keep it **SHORT**. When you have 6 to 12 operators on the frequency wanting to pass traffic simultaneously, we must keep the voice to a **MINIMUM** so everybody has a chance to pass their traffic.

Maintain the ICS 309 and log all message that are sent. Be sure to turn this in to your EC.

D-Rats setup:

Be sure to delete all forms out of the Boxes so that you have a fresh start for messages.

Be sure to fill the forms out completely with names and ICS Positions.

You will use the ICS 213 US OS forms in D-Rats for the EOC and the Red Cross.

Preference set up:

Sounds Tab: set up a sound to notify you when you have a message (You have a Message etc.). This will let you know when you have a message if you are busy on the chat window sending non priority traffic.

Paths Tab:

Under File Transfer path, show the bath to the D-Rats Shared folder on your desktop.

In the Message Tab, make sure the:

"Automatic Message Forwarding" is not Enable (this lets you send the message manually)

"Include Original in Reply" is Enable (this keeps the message and reply on one form)

After composing the 213:

click the Send Button, your message is then placed into the Out Box.

Go to the main Message window and click the "Send/Receive" Button to manually send your message when the repeater is clear. You have complete control when the frequency is clear to send your messages.

Message Reply:

After you receive a message, you can use the original message to reply back to the sender

Click the Reply Button, the form will reappear with the Destination Call Sign reversed, fill out the reply box at the bottom of the form and sign and date it, click send, it goes into the Out Box, in the main message window click Send/Receive button to manually send your message.

Chat Window:

Use the Chat mode for non priority messages and the ICS forms for priority messages.

Logging your messages:

All messages after you have sent them will be put into your Sent Box, DO NOT delete any of these message UNTIL you print them out for your logs.

How do I do this?

- Go to the Sent Box, double click on the message to open it.
- Click the Print button.
- Internet Explorer will open and you will see the form.
- Click the print button in your Internet Explorer to print the form.
- Be sure to turn in all your forms to your EC.

Sending the form electronically by e-mail

- Go to the Sent Box, double click on the message to open it.
- Click the print Button.
- Internet Explorer will open, Go to Page tab, click Save As.
- Name the form. (use the subject Name and date 9-2010)
- Save As (*.txt) file.

D-Rats Shared Folder:

- This folder is automatic created and placed on you desktop.
- Save all your forms in this folder.
- Send these forms to your EC by attachments.

I would only send 5 forms at a time by e-mail.

If we use this guide, Messages will flow smoothly.

When the frequency starts to get crowded, (8 to 12 operators) a NCS will be needed to insure the message gets passed with out collisions.