



# Emergency Instructions

**I**n an emergency, your FRS or GMRS radio may be your only way of communicating with your neighbors and finding out what is happening around you. When should you turn your FRS radio on? The DC Emergency Radio Network is self-activating: No central authority will tell you, “it’s an emergency, turn your radio on.” When the power fails, the Internet is inaccessible, cell phone networks are jammed or other regular means of communication don’t work, or you and your neighbors need to evacuate your homes—that’s when you should tune into DCERN channel 1.

1. *Tune your DCERN radio to channel 1.* Make sure that privacy/CTCSS tones are off. Your FRS radio display may show a large **1** for channel 1 and a small **0**, indicating that you have selected no privacy/interference tone.
2. *Listen.*
3. When the channel is free, *broadcast* your name, location, and any information you have. Press the talk button before you start talking and release it after you are done, so that you don’t cut yourself off.
4. *Repeat* what you hear. FRS and GMRS radios are relatively short range (between  $\frac{1}{4}$  and 10 miles, depending on the kind of radio you have and your location), so you should pass on what you know and hear.

If you need to evacuate or go outside, take your DCERN radio with you. Cell phone towers have limited battery backup life, so your radio may be your only way to communicate outdoors.

## **Troubleshooting: If you don’t hear anyone**

- ✓ Somebody may hear you, even if you can’t hear anyone else, so continue to transmit your information.
- ✓ Raise your radio over your head or get to a higher point. Increasing your radio’s height can dramatically improve your radio’s range.
- ✓ Check that you are on channel 1, and that channel 1 on your radio is 462.5625 MHz, which is the case for nearly all FRS radios.
- ✓ Check that your radio is charged or has working batteries.

For more information visit [www.dcradio.org](http://www.dcradio.org)