

LO FD FRS and GMRS Emergency Radio Use and Network

EZ to use, No License required

The Lake Oswego Fire Department has developed a City wide neighborhood emergency radio communications network, comprised of local residents who have CERT training or just engaged individuals who are willing to step in and help when a large city wide disruptive weather or similar disaster occurs. This would be when power is down, cellular communications are weak or off-line.

The FD has found the Motorola T600 FRS Radio, is best suited (in their opinion) for this purpose for residents to have on hand. There are other brands and models which can work just fine, and prices to fit any pocketbook. However, just for sake of commonality, the Motorola unit was selected as the preferred (but not required) unit, so the knowledge base of how to use them is wide spread and common.

The Lake Oswego Fire Department has developed a 1-hour video that provides a basic overview of the various two-way radio communications available for citizens to use. This video describes not only the types of radios but basic operations. <https://vimeo.com/555895522/e92ab371c5>

The Photo is of a representative unit of the Motorola T600 unit. It can be powered by both a rechargeable battery pack, or single use AA batteries. In addition it has a powerful flashlight in the base of the unit, which, besides use as a normal flashlight, can also send SOS and similar light patterns in the event of First Responders looking for you at night. Below the photo is LO FD's 3 step program to getting to know your radio with printable instructions and on line video for each step (one through three)



Radio Training Resources

A number of training classes offered through the Lake Oswego Fire Department's Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program in Lake Oswego have been held to help citizens learn more about their radios, proper/effective radio communication and how to work together with your neighbors. The following training guides have been created to assist groups such as LO ARES and Prep-LO who may assist neighborhood associations with training or neighborhood association and citizens who want to conduct their own training exercises. These guides provide a framework to follow to help citizens become more familiar with general radio practices.

Radio Exercise 100-1 - Getting to Know Your Radio: This guide will assist participants with understanding the basic requirements of operating the Motorola T600 FRS radio being purchased by neighborhood associations for disaster supply caches. This guide will help users operate this radio and become familiar with the various functions. ([Radio Exercise 100-1](#))

Radio Exercise 100-2 - Establishing a Radio NET: When there are a number of radio users on-air at the same time, trying to use the same channel, coordination is required. This guide will help participants understand the purpose and how to set up a directed radio net (on-air meeting) to help keep radio stations from talking over each other. ([Radio Exercise 100-2](#))

If you are interested in hearing how a radio net operates, anyone with an FRS or GMRS radio can also listen to the Lake Oswego GMRS Repeater Check-In net at 7:00 PM on Monday nights. Simply turn your radio on, set to Channel 17/Privacy Code 18 to listen. Only GMRS licensed individuals with repeater capable GMRS radios are able to communicate on the city-wide GMRS repeater.

Radio Exercise 100-3 - Radio Propagation: After learning how to establish a radio net and keeping the air waves organized, it is important to understand the effectiveness of your radio. This guide provides a framework to allow citizens to explore their neighborhood to identify the limits of radio signals in local settings, incorporate the functionality of a radio net and identify potential relay points in advance to help share information during an emergency. ([Radio Exercise 100-3](#))