

To communicate effectively on a walkie-talkie, use the push-to-talk button, speak clearly, and follow basic communication protocols.

Basic Operation

- Ocean County uses channels 15 & 16
- Turn On the Device: Ensure your walkie-talkie is fully charged and powered on. Check that all devices are set to the same frequency or channel for successful communication.
- Using the Push-to-Talk (PTT) Button: Locate the PTT button, usually on the side of the device. Press and hold this button while speaking. Remember to pause briefly after pressing the button before you start talking to avoid cutting off your initial words.
- Speak Clearly: Maintain a steady volume and speak directly into the microphone. Hold the radio 3-4 inches from your mouth and speak across the radio knuckles.
- Keep your message concise and to the point to ensure clarity.
- Ending Your Transmission: After finishing your message, say "over" to indicate you are done and release the PTT button. This allows the other person to respond.

Communication Etiquette

- Identify Yourself: Start each transmission by identifying yourself and the intended recipient. For example, "Cert Team 3 to CERT Team 4".
- Use Standard Codes: Familiarize yourself with common walkie-talkie codes to streamline communication. For instance:
 - 10-4: Message received
 - Roger: Message understood
 - Over: End of transmission, waiting for a reply
 - Out: End of transmission, no reply needed.
- Be Brief: Keep your messages short to avoid monopolizing the channel and allow others to communicate.

Tips for Effective Communication

- Give location, call sign, and a short burst of information.
- Stay Calm and Clear: In emergency situations, remain calm and articulate your messages clearly.
- Avoid Background Noise: If possible, find a quiet area to minimize background noise that could interfere with communication.

- **Test Your Equipment:** Regularly check the battery and functionality of your walkie-talkie to ensure it works properly when needed.
- By following these guidelines, you can enhance your communication skills on a walkie-talkie, making it an effective tool for coordination and teamwork in various situations.