

ARRL Radiogram Quick Reference

ARRL Radiograms, like the FEMA forms ICS-213, used to communicate formal traffic. ICS-213 will be covered elsewhere. This document focuses on the “Radiogram” format, used heavily in ARES exercises and actual emergencies.

The Radiogram has 4 parts: Preamble, Address, Text, and Signature. The “Records” block constitutes a possible 5th block, often not counted as part of the radiogram since it is there for station record-keeping purposes and is not communicated to other stations.

THE AMERICAN RADIO RELAY LEAGUE RADIOGRAM <small>VIA AMATEUR RADIO</small>							
NUMBER	PRECEDENCE	HX	STATION OF ORIGIN	CHECK	PLACE OF ORIGIN	TIME FILED	DATE
TO _____ TELEPHONE NUMBER _____						THIS RADIO MESSAGE WAS RECEIVED AT AMATEUR STATION _____ PHONE _____ NAME _____ STREET ADDRESS _____ CITY, STATE, ZIP _____	
_____ _____ _____ _____							
FROM _____ REC'D _____			DATE _____ TIME _____		SENT TO _____ DATE _____ TIME _____		
THIS MESSAGE WAS HANDLED FREE OF CHARGE BY A LICENSED AMATEUR RADIO OPERATOR, WHOSE ADDRESS IS SHOWN IN THE BOX AT RIGHT ABOVE. AS SUCH MESSAGES ARE HANDLED SOLELY FOR THE PLEASURE OF OPERATING, NO COMPENSATION CAN BE ACCEPTED BY A "HAM" OPERATOR. A RETURN MESSAGE MAY BE FILED WITH THE "HAM" DELIVERING THIS MESSAGE TO YOU. FURTHER INFORMATION ON AMATEUR RADIO MAY BE OBTAINED FROM ARRL HEADQUARTERS, 225 MAIN STREET, NEWINGTON, CT 06111				THE AMERICAN RADIO RELAY LEAGUE, INC. IS THE NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP SOCIETY OF LICENSED RADIO AMATEURS AND THE PUBLISHER OF QST MAGAZINE. ONE OF ITS FUNCTIONS IS PROMOTION OF PUBLIC SERVICE COMMUNICATION AMONG AMATEUR OPERATORS. TO THAT END, THE LEAGUE HAS ORGANIZED THE NATIONAL TRAFFIC SYSTEM FOR DAILY NATIONWIDE MESSAGE HANDLING.			
PRINTED IN USA							

PREAMBLE

The preamble is message tracking information. It ensures a way to track a message from where it originates to the destination. The preamble is filled in by the first amateur radio operator to transmit the message (the originator). Here are the various components of the preamble:

- 1) NR: The Message Number. Any station that will be originating traffic will assign a message number to each outgoing message he or she originates. It should be sequentially numbered.
- 2) PREC: Message Precedence. Values can be EMERGENCY (spelled out), R for routine, W for welfare, P for priority. NOTE: During an exercise the precedence should be preceded by the word “TEST” or “EXERCISE” (TEST is preferred).
- 3) HX: Handling Instructions. HXA### Is used to specify phone delivery, collect call allowed by addressee within ### miles. HXB## indicates how many hours can pass before message delivery is aborted. HXC indicates the originator wishes to know the date and time the message was delivered. HXD indicates identity of receiving or relaying station as well as date and time message was passed is requested. HXE indicates a response message from addressee is requested. HXF##### indicates delivery is held until the provided date (#####). HXG Delivery by mail or landline toll is not

required. If there is a cost involved in delivery then cancel message and send service message back to sender.

- 4) STN-ORIG: Originating Station. This is the station that created the initial message. Remember, the preamble should not be changed.
- 5) CK:: Check is the number of word “groups”. This verifies the correct number of groups have been copied. Each punctuation (use of which should be avoided) is counted as a word group. X can be used as a period, other punctuation is spelled out.
- 6) Place-Of-Orig: The city and state of origin. Do not use punctuation.
- 7) Time Filed: This is optional. Time is given in 24 hour format followed by Z for UTC “Zulu”, L for Local, or a time zone. Example: 1245Z Oct 1.
- 8) MON / DAY: Month and day of message. If (7) is provided the date better match!

ADDRESS

- 1) ADDRESSEE: The name of the recipient. If message is to children or to be handled by a third party in the home an additional line with C/O and the name of the person named to receive on behalf of the addressee.
- 2) STREET ADDRESS: Can be multi-line as well if needed. The first line may contain an institution name (nursing home, hospital, etc). The actual address should be provided in typical postal format.
- 3) CITY, STATE ZIP: Standard postal delivery format should be used. The state should be a standard two-character abbreviation.
- 4) TELEPHONE NUMBER: Provided as three groups of numbers, no dashes or dots.
- 5) OP NOTE: This is a note for the message handlers and may provide direction for delivery. For instance, delivery during business hours, weekend, etc.

TEXT

The text area is the actual message to be communicated. The section has up to 25 words. Punctuation should be avoided and should be spelled as a word group, and count as such. A period may be replaced with an “X”. Numbers with decimals should replace the decimal with an “R”. Q codes are allowed as well. Greetings and endings should be included in the text.

SIGNATURE

One line identifying the person requesting the message be sent (not the originating operator, but the person being served). Sample: BRIAN KI4LZG AT TEMPLE GA. Some radiogram forms have a separate “Signature” section, but the signature is often simply the last line of the message text.

SIGNATURE OP NOTE

Gives special instructions for the last operator in the line before the message is delivered.

RECORDS BLOCK

- 1) RCVD FROM: The station the copying station received the message from.
- 2) NET: The net the message was copied on.
- 3) DATE/TIME: Date & Time you copied the message.
- 4) SENT TO: If you are not the last station before delivery then you’ll log who you handed the message off to, the net that was done on, and the DATE/TIME you relayed the message.