



MedCom Net Station to Station Contact

Accurate, Reliable communications for our Served Agency

Moving Information in a Directed Net

Our goal in emergency communications is to move information from point A to point B as accurately, rapidly, and efficiently as possible. We develop operating procedures in ecom that are designed to meet those goals. Examples include; using a standard phonetic alphabet, operational prowords such as over, out, and roger, and directed net operation.

Operating in a directed net is a big change from our normal day-to-day communications. The directed net is highly structured and functions using battle tested procedures.

The directed net procedure for station to station contact is vital to accurate, efficient movement of information within the network. The basic rule for station-to-station contact is the station being called answers first under direction of the NECOS.

Let's take a look at an example. We'll use tactical calls for the three stations involved; NET – Net Control Station, EOC – Emergency Operations Center, Fire One – Triage location near the disaster site. The scenario is as follows. The triage location needs additional specific supplies as soon as possible. Fire One has prepared a formal message containing the request, which needs to be sent to the EOC. The exchange would take place as follows.

- *Fire One* "Net, Fire One with one PRIORITY for EOC."
- *Net* "Roger Fire One. Please wait OUT"
- *Net* "Fire One, call EOC and pass one PRIORITY OUT"
- *EOC* "Ready to copy, OVER"

Fire One would then pass the information to EOC. When EOC has rogered the message, NET would again assume control of communications.

This procedure connects the two stations, Fire One and EOC as rapidly and reliably as possible. In a directed net, all stations are monitoring the net traffic. Assuming communications conditions are good, EOC hears Fire One list a priority message for him, locates a pencil and pad and prepares to copy the message. When instructed by NET, the station being called, EOC, answers first which says, 1. I can hear Fire One, 2. I understand that he has a message for me, 3. I'm prepared to write down the information as it is sent. All that information is transmitted in just four words "Ready to copy, OVER".

If communications conditions were bad and EOC didn't hear Fire One well enough for 100% copy of the message he would have answered, "Ready to copy, will need a relay, OVER". This alerts NET and all other stations in the network that they need to copy the message in order to relay fills if requested by EOC.

That is the station-to-station procedure in a directed net. The process may seem totally contrary to normal ham operating practice. That's because it is! The procedure has been developed to accomplish the goals of Accuracy, Speed, and Efficiency. Remember, emergency communications is a skill that needs to be practiced regularly to maintain your proficiency.