



What Can FRS (Family Radio Service) Radios Do for You?

FRS radios allow Topanga residents to receive information during an emergency.

FRS radios can receive information in Topanga when the power is out and cell towers are not working.

TCEP's "Top of the Hour Report" provides critical information during an emergency.

This information may include evacuations alerts, road closures, school notices, and Red Cross shelter locations.

Listen for the "Top of the Hour Report" on Channel 15 when TCEP is activated during an emergency.

Have LOTS of extra batteries charged and ready.

Privacy codes or sub-channels should be set to none or "0".

FRS radios operate on "line of sight" from one radio to another.

Move around to find the best reception.

How To Use FRS Radios with Topanga's Neighborhood Networks (NN)

A Neighborhood Network (NN) is a group of neighbors who organize to help each other during emergencies.

Stay in touch with the Neighborhood Network (NN) for your area.

Use your NN's assigned FRS channel to talk to your neighbors.

Please remember only one person can talk at a time.

Each NN should identify a NN Radio Contact to act as the local radio lead for your area.

Please request permission to talk from your NN Radio Contact in order to allow for orderly communication.

Let your NN Radio Contact direct the radio transmissions in an orderly manner.

15 minutes after each hour (or shortly thereafter), your NN Radio Contact should re-transmit (repeat word for word) all information received during TCEP's "Top of the Hour Report" for those who could not hear the message directly.

Be prepared.

Practice BEFORE there is an emergency.

Topanga Survival Guide

<https://topangasurvival.wordpress.com/survival-guide/>

Know your Zone (1 – 9), look in the Topanga Survival Guide - Section 7 (Page 85).

Know your NN's assigned FRS channel (8–14), look in the Topanga Survival Guide - Section 7 (Page 96).

Stay in Touch and Stay Safe

What are FRS (Family Radio Service) Radios?

- FRS radios are not a substitute for calling 911 about life or property threatening emergencies.
- FRS radios are very affordable and easy to operate.
They are usually sold in pairs for less than \$50 (\$25 each).
- Don't buy a radio based on the mileage (distance).
Those ratings can be misleading.
- Get an FRS radio that can use common batteries like "AA" or "AAA" (alkaline or rechargeable).
If it only accepts a special battery pack, how will you recharge that battery pack when the power is out?
- The distance an FRS radio can communicate is based on "Line of Sight".
Examples:
FRS radio can easily communicate from Viewridge Road (PSR 1A) to the Tuna Water Tanks (PSR 9A)
FRS radios will NOT be able to communicate from Mill Creek Ranch to Topanga Community House
Henry Ridge would block signals between Mill Creek Ranch (PSR 2A) and Community House (PSR 4A)
- Set to your privacy code to off or to zero (0).
Privacy codes or sub-channels will keep you from hearing others' transmissions.
Privacy codes or sub-channels must NOT be used during an emergency.
- No license is needed to receive (listen) on channels 15 – 22, but an FCC license is required to transmit.
- Neighbors can keep each other informed, in many cases without leaving home or tying up the phone.
Think of it as an old fashioned party line.
- Please do not transmit while someone else is talking!
Multiple transmissions cancel each other out.
- FRS Radios can provide access to current and correct information, which may be key to your safety.
- If someone transmits a message directly to you, repeat what was said to confirm that you heard it correctly.

Samples of FRS radios

