

UNITED STATES COAST GUARD
AUXILIARY

DISTRICT ELEVEN (sr)



RADIO REPEATER SYSTEM OPERATING GUIDELINES

Compiled by

Vince Oppedisano ADSO-CM Inland

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION

QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS

REPEATER OPERATING GUIDELINES

OVERVIEW OF RADIO OPERATING PROCEDURES

LAKE POWELL RADIO OPERATIONS

REPEATERS IN THE INLAND AOR OF D11(sr)

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of the Coast Guard Auxiliary repeater system is to support Auxiliary operations and administrative activities in addition to emergency communications in the event of any kind of disaster that disrupts use of the landline telephone system or the cell phone system.

In order that the repeater system functions properly for the purposes outlined above, there are qualification requirements and procedures for operating on the repeaters as well as special equipment requirements.

QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

As of August 1, 2008, a Coast Guard Auxiliary member must pass the Telecommunications Operator Specialty Course (Personal Qualification Standards [PQS]).

Prior to August 1, 2008, members who successfully completed the Auxiliary Communications Specialty Course (AUXCOM) are grandfathered for the purpose of meeting the new qualification requirements.

EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS

As of January 1, 2008, radio equipment used on the repeaters must meet FCC Part 90 (Land Mobile Radio) requirements and be capable of narrowband operation.

Note: This requirement does not apply to the VHF marine band. Marine radios used on our operational facilities are not affected.

REPEATER OPERATING GUIDELINES

The Coast Guard Auxiliary Repeater System is a local district entity and those districts that have repeaters manage their own. The operation of the repeaters and the requirements for participation is the sole responsibility of the individual districts.

D11(sr) Repeater Call Sign Structure – Call signs consisting of two alpha characters (e.g. **Delta Zulu**) are issued by DIRAUX to qualified individuals and are only valid for communicating on Auxiliary repeaters and simplex frequencies within D11(sr) and only for casual administrative or coordination communications while **not under orders**. Once an ordered mission is begun, the call sign of the Auxiliary facility is to be used. (See example on page 5).

Other districts have different call sign structures and different qualification procedures. In those instances when members of another district use D11(sr) repeaters, they shall use the call signs issued to them in their district followed by their district's number.

Example: An out-of-district member calling a D11(sr) member while not under orders,

COAST GUARD AUXILIARY ALPHA FOXTROT, this is
COAST GUARD AUXILIARY xx ELEVEN NORTH, over.....

Once contact is made, the words COAST GUARD AUXILIARY may be dropped with each exchange of information for the duration of the contact.

Note: Avoid using a person's name, if possible.

OVERVIEW OF RADIO OPERATING PROCEDURES

The same radio operating procedures commonly used by the Auxiliary on the marine band (156-158 Mhz) apply to the VHF narrowband frequencies used on the Auxiliary repeaters. The repeaters have a wider coverage area than short range line of sight operation on marine band radios. Therefore, it is important that operating procedure is adhered to since other agencies may be within listening range. Also, the Auxiliary's repeaters may be made available for use by other law enforcement and Homeland Security agencies for coordinating communications with the Auxiliary during times of need. For this reason, **proper agency identification is a must** when communicating on assigned frequencies.

The following operating procedure applies to any radio system used by the Auxiliary:

The correct way to make **initial contact** with another unit while **under Coast Guard orders** is..... (example):

Caller: **COAST GUARD AUXILIARY PAGE RADIO 1**, this is
COAST GUARD AUXILIARY VESSEL Axxx, over.....

Reply: **COAST GUARD AUXILIARY VESSEL Axxx**, this is
COAST GUARD AUXILIARY PAGE RADIO 1, over.....

Once contact is made, you can drop the **COAST GUARD AUXILIARY** words with each exchange of information between the two units and just use "This is Page Radio 1" or "This is Axxx" for the duration of the contact.

Once the contact is concluded, the "initial contact" procedure above must be used to make a new contact.

LAKE POWELL RADIO OPERATIONS

Although the repeater system gives the Auxiliary a radio system of its own, it does not change the way it operates. The VHF marine band continues to be the primary radio system for communicating with the public.

The repeater system is to be used only for Coast Guard Auxiliary business between Auxiliary facilities and when applicable, other authorized agencies.

National Park Service (NPS) Dispatch monitors channel 16 twenty four hours a day, seven days a week. **They are the primary contact for recreational boaters** when boaters need assistance.

When a boater contacts NPS for assistance, NPS Dispatch determines what action to take. When NPS assigns a case to the Auxiliary, they will contact the Auxiliary vessel or the Auxiliary radio guard station. If the Auxiliary vessel is notified by NPS, the Auxiliary vessel will contact the radio guard station using the repeater. (Marine radio channel 81A or 83A is secondary).

If an Auxiliary vessel comes upon a boater needing assistance, the Auxiliary vessel informs the Auxiliary radio guard station and the radio guard station informs NPS Dispatch.

If an Auxiliary vessel has occasion to contact a recreational boater on ch. 16 (and it is not an emergency), switch them to ch. 22 (or other recreational boater channel). **DO NOT SWITCH THEM TO CH. 81A or 83A.** We don't want the public thinking they should contact the Auxiliary directly on these Coast Guard channels. The other Recreational Boater's channels are **68, 69, 71, 72 and 78A.**

If an Auxiliary facility has occasion to contact another Auxiliary facility, the contact should be made using the repeater. However, if contact has to be made on channel 16, the unit being contacted should be told to switch to the "**Operations**" frequency (ch. 81A or 83A), **without mentioning the channel number.**

REPEATERS IN THE INLAND AOR OF D11(sr)

Navajo Mtn Repeater – Lake Powell

This repeater serves all of Lake Powell. It is situated on top of Navajo Mountain at an elevation of 10,388' above sea level. It overlooks the entire 186 mile long lake on the Colorado River and its 96 major canyons.

The repeater's operating frequency is:

150.700 Mhz – output

149.200 Mhz - input

CTCSS tone - 156.7 Hz

Mt. Ord Repeater - Phoenix

This repeater serves the Phoenix Arizona area and the lakes along the Salt River. It is situated on top of Mt. Ord at an elevation of 7,156' above sea level. It is located approximately 50 miles northeast of downtown Phoenix.

The repeater's operating frequency is:

150.700 Mhz – output

149.200 Mhz – input

CTCSS tone – 107.2 Hz