

# Use of Tactical Calls During Emergencies

Revised: 3/25/10

Do you know the name and callsign each of the hams in our Stake? How about just your Ward? Neither do I. One way to make sure that know who we are talking to is to use agreed-upon "Tactical Calls" ahead of time. Police and fire agencies do this routinely--you never hear them use the FCC-issued callsigns for their mobile and base stations. Instead, they use words like "Dispatch" or "Radio" when addressing the dispatcher, and "Tom1", "Paul2", or "Watch Commander" for mobile units, depending on their function.

It is perfectly legal to do this with ham radio, AS LONG AS YOU GIVE YOUR FCC-ISSUED CALLSIGN AT LEAST ONCE IN 10 MINUTES. An easy way to do this is to simply add your callsign on to the end of your tactical call if it's been awhile since you ID'ed yourself: "This is Hollister Chapel, K7DAA, clear." Or something like that.

If we don't use tactical calls, we end up wasting valuable time trying to determine who we are talking to, and what specific assignment they have. I suggest we use the following tactical calls at the Stake level, or when communicating outside of the Wards:

## TACTICAL CALL

## WHO OR WHAT THIS IS

Hollister Chapel	The LDS chapel in Hollister
Gilroy Chapel	The LDS chapel in Gilroy
Stake Center	The LDS Stake Center in Morgan Hill
Bernal Chapel	The LDS chapel in South San Jose Bernal area
Hollister Ward EC	The Ward emergency coordinator for Hollister Ward
Morgan Hill 2nd ECS	The Emergency Comms Specialist for MH2
Stake ECS	For now, that's me (Dave Andrus)!
Stake EC	Gary Cameron, Stake Emergency Coordinator
Stake President	Obvious
Hollister Bishop	Again, obvious
Bernal Command Post	Might be used instead of "Bernal Chapel", especially if the chapel has been damaged, and another command post has been set up for the Ward

These tactical calls should be unique enough that they wouldn't easily be duplicated by any parallel group, especially one that might be on the same radio channel! Depending on your assignment, you can come up with your own tactical call uses within each Ward. It might be easiest to use your Ward name, along with your assignment, so that anyone listening can tell where you are and what your assignment is likely to be: For example, we find that "Hollister Mobile 1" was assigned to go out to a far area of the Ward to check on the welfare of several members. It would be much easier on a busy radio channel to hear:

"Hollister Chapel to Hollister Mobile 1, are you there yet?" rather than:  
"KJ6ABC to KJ6XYZ--are you there yet?"

Others listening on the radio channel will be better informed, and less likely to interpret your call incorrectly, possibly adding to additional radio traffic by inquiring about who is being called, whether they can help, etc. With tactical calls, we have a clue as to what each person's assignment or function is, and leave the matter of remembering FCC callsigns up to each individual amateur radio operator.