

TO: ALL WOOD COUNTY EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS AMATEURS
ALL NON-WOOD COUNTY EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS AMATEURS
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SUBJECT: WHEN IN DOUBT, USE PLAIN LANGUAGE

With all the types of communications today, there are just about as many languages to use with them. It's always been my way of thinking that when in Rome, do as the Romans do. As emergency communicators we may be operating on a variety of communications medias, from Radios to the Internet. These modes would include Amateur Radio, both voice and digital, Public Safety Radio, Military frequencies, Citizens Band, and the Internet.

It's the responsibility of the communications person to use the language of the media being used. On Amateur Radio, we don't use 10 codes and CB type lingo. On Public safety radios we don't use Amateur Radio lingo such as QRM, QSO, QSY, or Roger, etc. On military frequencies the procedure is pretty well spelled out in their training manuals.

Amateur Packet Radio, both keyboard-to-keyboard, and Chat Rooms are not the same as the Internet Chat Rooms. Each of them uses there own type of language. The operator on the other end of a Amateur Radio Packet communications may not know all of the shortcuts and lingo used on the Internet, and vise versa. The best thing to do, if there is any doubt, whether the person or persons on the other end of a communications media knows your language or not, is to use plain language.

If you use some kind of language or lingo they don't understand, then communications time is wasted since it will have to explained, when it would have been better to use plain language in the first place. It might be said that the person on the other end should learn your language, but remember, you may be playing on their play ground, so you should operate using their language, and they should be using your language when playing on your play ground. So remember, when in Rome, do as the Romans do.

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