

Top Ten Rules for being a Good Amateur Radio Operator

The amateur radio community over the years has developed a level of high regard and respect from just about everybody, and it is important that anyone operating as a ham radio operator do everything within their power to continue to use amateur radio in a professional and courteous manner. Poor behavior has ruined other radio services such as Citizen's Band radio, and those of us that are serious about our ham radio privileges do not want to see the same thing happen to ham radio. Unlike CB radio, ham radio has a set of rules, FCC Part 97, which must be strictly adhered to. In addition, the ARRL sponsors "official observers" to monitor amateur radio frequencies and report violations. I hope that everyone reading this will agree with these suggestions and pass on the information to other new ham radio operators so that we may continue to enjoy our hobby without distractions. Thank you!

1. Give your full FCC call sign every ten minutes and at the end of your transmission.
2. Do not broadcast music or make any sort of transmission similar to commercial radio. Amateur radio is for non-commercial contacts between licensed operators.
3. Do not conduct business other than selling ham radio related items. Ham radio is for personal use and never for business use.
4. Do not use profane language, make threatening comments or racial slurs, or participate in any other disruptive behavior.
5. Do not exhibit unprofessional behavior.
6. Do not allow unlicensed operators, such as your children, to use your radio unless you are present and making sure that they observe all of the rules. It is better still to help your children obtain their own license!
7. Do not monopolize the frequency – pause occasionally to see if other hams want to use the frequency to make a contact. Allow other people to immediately use the channel if they have an emergency.
8. If you are using a repeater, you are doing so with the permission of the repeater owner, so learn and follow the rules and guidelines for this repeater.
9. Be courteous at all times.
10. Only use enough power to successfully make contact – too much power can be annoying to others within close range and also it may interfere with transmissions on nearby frequencies.