

## **ARRL Precedences, Message Numbers and Handling Instructions**

All messages handled by Amateur Radio should contain precedences -- that is, an evaluation of each message's importance, made by the originating station. A precedence is an "order of handling." There are four precedences in the ARRL message form: Emergency, Priority (P), Welfare (W) and Routine (R), in that order of handling. When and as they appear on a net or any other kind of circuit, messages will be handled in this order.

### **Emergency**

Any message having life and death urgency to any person or group of persons, which is transmitted by Amateur Radio in the absence of regular commercial facilities. This includes official messages of welfare agencies during emergencies requesting supplies, materials or instructions vital to relief to stricken populace in emergency areas. During normal times, it will be very rare. On CW, RTTY, AMTOR and packet this designation will always be spelled out. When in doubt, do not use this designation.

### **Priority**

Use abbreviation P on CW, RTTY, AMTOR and packet. This classification is for important messages having a specific time limit, official messages not covered in the emergency category, press dispatches and emergency-related traffic not of the utmost urgency.

### **Welfare**

This classification, abbreviated as W on CW, RTTY, AMTOR and packet, refers to either an inquiry as to the health and welfare of an individual in the disaster area or an advisory from the disaster area that indicates all is well. Welfare traffic is handled only after all emergency and priority traffic is cleared. The Red Cross equivalent to an incoming Welfare message is DWI (Disaster Welfare Inquiry).

### **Routine**

Most traffic in normal times will bear this designation. In disaster situations, traffic labeled Routine (R on CW, RTTY, AMTOR and packet) should be handled last, or not at all when circuits are busy with higher-precedence traffic.

The precedence will follow, but is not a part of the message number. For example, a message may begin with NR 207 R on CW, "Number Two Zero Seven, Routine" on phone.

### **Handling Instructions**

Handling instructions (HX) are less used but quite useful in handling messages. They serve to convey any special instructions to handling and delivering operators. This "prosign," when used, is inserted in the message preamble between the precedence and the station of origin. Its use is optional with the originating stations, but once inserted is mandatory with all relaying stations.

The following definitions apply:

HXA--(Followed by number) Collect landline delivery authorized by addressee within X miles. (If no number, authorization is unlimited.)

HXB--(Followed by number) Cancel message if not delivered within X hours of filing time; service originating station.

HXC--Report date and time of delivery (TOD) to originating station.

HXD--Report to originating station the identity of station from which received, plus date and time. Report identity of station to which relayed, plus date and time, or if delivered report date, time and method of delivery.

HXE--Delivering station get reply from addressee, originate message back.

HXF--(Followed by number.) Hold delivery until...(specific date).

HXG--Delivery by mail or landline toll call not required. If toll or other expense involved, cancel message and service originating station.

Example: NR 207 R HXA50 W4MLE 12...(etc.).

If more than one HX prosign is used, they can be combined if no numbers are to be inserted, otherwise the HX should be repeated thus: NR 207 R HXAC W4MLE...(etc.). On phone, use phonetics for the letter or letters following the HX, to ensure accuracy.

#### Recommended Precedences

The letters ARL are inserted in the preamble in the check and in the text before spelled out numbers, which represent texts from this list. Note that some ARL texts include insertion of numerals and text. Example:

NR 1 R W1AW ARL 5 NEWINGTON CONN. DEC 25 DONALD R. SMITH 164 EAST SIXTH  
AVE NORTH RIVER CITY MO PHONE 73-3968 ARL FIFTY ARL SIXTY ONE BT  
DIANA .

For additional information about traffic handling, consult The ARRL Operating Manual, published by ARRL, or the NTS Methods and Practices Guidelines.

#### **Group One—For Possible “Relief Emergency” Use**

ONE Everyone safe here. Please don't worry.

TWO Coming home as soon as possible.

THREE Am in \_\_\_\_\_ hospital. Receiving excellent care and recovering fine.

FOUR Only slight property damage here. Do not be concerned about disaster reports.

FIVE Am moving to new location. Send no further mail or communication. Will inform you of new address when relocated.

SIX Will contact you as soon as possible.

SEVEN Please reply by Amateur Radio through the amateur delivering this message. This is a free public service.

EIGHT Need additional \_\_\_\_\_ mobile or portable equipment for immediate emergency use.

NINE Additional \_\_\_\_\_ radio operators needed to assist with emergency at this location.

TEN Please contact \_\_\_\_\_. Advise to standby and provide further emergency information, instructions or assistance.

ELEVEN Establish Amateur Radio emergency communications with \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_ MHz.

TWELVE Anxious to hear from you. No word in some time. Please contact me as soon as possible.

THIRTEEN Medical emergency situation exists here.

FOURTEEN Situation here becoming critical. Losses and damage from \_\_\_\_ increasing.

FIFTEEN Please advise your condition and what help is needed.

SIXTEEN Property damage very severe in this area.

SEVENTEEN REACT communications services also available. Establish REACT communication with \_\_\_\_ on channel \_\_\_\_.

EIGHTEEN Please contact me as soon as possible at \_\_\_\_.

NINETEEN Request health and welfare report on \_\_\_\_ . (State name, address and telephone number.)

TWENTY Temporarily stranded. Will need some assistance. Please contact me at \_\_\_\_.

TWENTY ONE Search and Rescue assistance is needed by local authorities here. Advise availability.

TWENTY TWO Need accurate information on the extent and type of conditions now existing at your location. Please furnish this information and reply without delay.

TWENTY THREE Report at once the accessibility and best way to reach your location.

TWENTY FOUR Evacuation of residents from this area urgently needed. Advise plans for help.

TWENTY FIVE Furnish as soon as possible the weather conditions at your location.

TWENTY SIX Help and care for evacuation of sick and injured from this location needed at once. Emergency/priority messages originating from official sources must carry the signature of the originating official.

### **Group Two—Routine Messages**

FORTY SIX Greetings on your birthday and best wishes for many more to come.

FORTY SEVEN Reference your message number \_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_ delivered on \_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_ UTC.

FIFTY Greetings by Amateur Radio.

FIFTY ONE Greetings by Amateur Radio. This message is sent as a free public service by ham radio operators at \_\_\_\_ . Am having a wonderful time.

FIFTY TWO Really enjoyed being with you. Looking forward to getting together again.

FIFTY THREE Received your \_\_\_\_ . It's appreciated; many thanks.

FIFTY FOUR Many thanks for your good wishes.

FIFTY FIVE Good news is always welcome. Very delighted to hear about yours.

FIFTY SIX Congratulations on your \_\_\_\_\_, a most worthy and deserved achievement.

FIFTY SEVEN Wish we could be together.

FIFTY EIGHT Have a wonderful time. Let us know when you return.

FIFTY NINE Congratulations on the new arrival. Hope mother and child are well.

\*SIXTY Wishing you the best of everything on \_\_\_\_\_.

SIXTY ONE Wishing you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

\*SIXTY TWO Greetings and best wishes to you for a pleasant \_\_\_\_\_ holiday season.

SIXTY THREE Victory or defeat, our best wishes are with you. Hope you win.

SIXTY FOUR Arrived safely at \_\_\_\_\_.

SIXTY FIVE Arriving \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_. Please arrange to meet me there.

SIXTY SIX DX QSLs are on hand for you at the \_\_\_\_\_ QSL Bureau. Send \_\_\_\_\_ self addressed envelopes.

SIXTY SEVEN Your message number \_\_\_\_\_ undeliverable because of \_\_\_\_\_. Please advise.

SIXTY EIGHT Sorry to hear you are ill. Best wishes for a speedy recovery.

SIXTY NINE Welcome to the \_\_\_\_\_. We are glad to have you with us and hope you will enjoy the fun and fellowship of the organization.

\* Can be used for all holidays.