

Primary Radio Frequencies after a PS

(5/21/2007)

After a pole shift radio could be the only method of communication. Knowing what frequencies to use becomes vital. If one listens or calls on a frequency that other are not using then no contact will result. It becomes desirable to predict what frequencies to use after a PS. The frequencies in most use today could be the best to use after a PS. So the question becomes what are the emergency and most commonly used calling frequencies today? This report details the primary frequencies on all bands that could be usefully after a PS.

Frequency MHz	Commonly used and Emergency Calling Frequencies
1.8100	Ham HF QRP CW Calling (QRP = Low Power Transmitter 5 watts or less output)
1.9100	Ham HF QRP SSB Calling (HF = High Frequency)
2.1820	Ham HF International Maritime Distress Frequency
3.5600	Ham HF QRP CW Calling
3.5800	Ham HF QRP CW Calling
3.8850	Ham HF AM Calling
3.9850	Ham HF QRP SSB Calling
7.0300	Ham HF QRP DX CW Calling
7.0400	Ham HF QRP CW Calling
7.2850	Ham HF QRP SSB Calling
7.2900	Ham HF AM Calling
10.1060	Ham HF QRP CW Calling
14.0250	Ham HF CW DX Calling
14.0600	Ham HF QRP CW Calling
14.1950	Ham HF DX Calling
14.2850	Ham HF QRP SSB Calling
14.2860	Ham HF AM Calling
21.0600	Ham HF QRP CW Calling
21.2950	Ham HF DX Calling
21.3850	Ham HF QRP SSB Calling
27.0650	CB AM Ch-9 Emergency Channel
27.1850	CB AM Ch-19 Unofficial Highway Channel
27.3850	CB AM Ch-38 LSB, National calling frequency
28.0600	Ham HF QRP CW Calling
28.3850	Ham HF QRP SSB Calling
28.4000	Ham HF CW Calling
29.0000	Ham HF AM Calling
29.6000	Ham HF FM simplex
34.9000	Used nationwide by the National Guard during emergencies.
39.4600	Used for inter-department emergency communications by local and state police forces.

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47.4200	Used across the United States by the Red Cross for relief operations.
50.1100	Ham 6 Meter DX Calling
50.1250	Ham 6 Meter SSB Calling
50.4000	Ham 6 Meter AM Calling
52.5250	Ham 6 Meter FM Calling
121.5000	International Aviation Emergency Frequency
138.2250	Prime disaster relief operations channel used by the Federal Emergency Management Agency
144.0500	Ham 2 Meter DX CW (Europe)
144.2000	Ham 2 Meter CW and SSB common Calling
144.3000	Ham 2 Meter DX CW/SSB (Europe)
144.5000	Ham 2 Meter FM Calling (Europe)
146.5200	Ham 2 Meter Ham FM General calling and emergency and wilderness protocol
146.5500	Ham 2 Meter Ham FM Simplex National Emergency Frequency
151.6250	Used by "itinerant" businesses, or those that travel about the country.
154.2800	Used for inter-department emergency communications by local fire departments; 154.265 and 154.295 also used.
154.5700	Used itinerant business channel. Circuses, exhibitions, trade shows, sports teams. 154.600 also used.
155.1600	Used for inter-department emergency communications by local and state agencies during search and rescue operations.
155.4750	Used for inter-department emergency communications by local and state police forces.
156.4500	Ch-9 The boater calling channel.
156.8000	Ch-16 International maritime distress, calling, and safety channel. Heavily used on rivers, lakes also.
162.4000	Used for NOAA weather broadcasts and bulletins.
162.4250	Used for NOAA weather broadcasts and bulletins.
162.4500	Used for NOAA weather broadcasts and bulletins.
162.4750	Used for NOAA weather broadcasts and bulletins.
162.5000	Used for NOAA weather broadcasts and bulletins.
162.5250	Used for NOAA weather broadcasts and bulletins.
162.5500	Used for NOAA weather broadcasts and bulletins.
163.2750	Used for NOAA weather broadcasts and bulletins.
163.4875	Used nationwide by the National Guard during emergencies.
163.5125	The national disaster preparedness frequency used jointly by the armed forces.

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168.5500	The national channel used by civilian agencies of the federal government for communications during emergencies and disasters.
222.1000	Ham CW and SSB USA Calling
223.5000	Ham FM USA Calling
243.0000	Used during military aviation emergencies.
259.7000	Used by the Space Shuttle during re-entry and landing.
296.8000	Used by the Space Shuttle during re-entry and landing.
311.0000	An active in-flight channel used by the U.S. Air Force.
317.7000	An active channel used by U.S. Coast Guard aviation.
317.8000	An active channel used by U.S. Coast Guard aviation.
319.4000	An active in-flight channel used by the U.S. Air Force.
340.2000	An active channel used by U.S. Navy aviators.
409.6250	National communications channel for the Department of State.
432.1000	Ham CW and SSB USA Calling
446.0000	Ham FM Simplex USA Calling
462.5625	Citizens FRS/GMRS Ch-1 commonly used Calling Frequency
462.6750	Citizens GMRS Ch-20 Emergency Communications and Traveler Assistance
902.1000	Ham SSB USA Calling (weak-signal)
1294.5000	Ham FM USA Calling
1296.1000	Ham SSB USA Calling
2304.1000	Ham USA calling
2305.2000	Ham FM Simplex USA calling

Some of these frequencies will be more valuable before a PS and would be dead after a PS. Some you might listen to but not want to transmit on. The lower the frequency the longer the distance it can be heard. Use whatever frequencies your radio equipment is capable of.

A low cost, low-power radio-scanner can be programmed with these frequencies to do the monitoring. It also may be prudent to scan other frequencies once one knows what the locals are using. Program a scanner, test, and get familiar with your equipment before the PS.

Before the PS once the call is established, a good operating practice is to move off keeping the calling channel clear. After the PS with very scarce contacts one may wish to stay on the calling frequency so that others have the possibility of hearing and joining in.

One other suggestion for an emergency frequency is to have the person monitoring key the mic and say so every 10 minutes - "This is station XXXXX listening".

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WILDERNESS PROTOCOL

The Wilderness protocol (see page 101, August 1995 *QST*) calls for wilderness hams to announce their presence on, and to monitor, the national calling frequencies for five minutes beginning at the top of the hour, every three hours from 7 AM to 7 PM while in the back country. A ham in a remote location may be able to relay emergency information through another wilderness ham who has better access to a repeater. Calling Frequencies: 52.525, 146.52, 223.50, 446.00, 1294.50 MHz.

Some scaled down version of this may work after the PS. Say include HF Calling frequencies and call only during mid day.

References for further information on emergency communication:

Nat. EMERGENCY Frequency needed

<http://www.eham.net/articles/868>

Two meters From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2_meters

National Frequencies Commonly used

<http://www.smlec.com/scanner/national.htm>

ARRL Band Plans

<http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/regulations/bandplan.html>

Amateur Radio Band Plan Layout (good to print)

<http://www.dxzone.com:80/cgi-bin/dir/jump2.cgi?ID=11733>

Amateur Radio Emergency Service ARES Field Resources Manual

<http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/aresman.pdf>

The Town of Babylon Amateur Radio Emergency Services

<http://www.tobares.org/>

<http://www.tobares.org/training.html>

Print this Frequency List out and keep it with your radio equipment to use as a reference.

MikeL