

# BCSO – Search and Rescue

Radios are primary communication for teams

## BCSAR uses 3 type of radios

1. BCSO “trunk” handheld radio - only used by SAR command staff, trained on BCSO communication procedures. System allows for contact with BCSO communications, helicopter ops, dive team as well as other LE agencies through-out the state.
2. **BCSAR hand-held Radio** – issued to team member/teams. A dual band (UHF/VHF) system, there are 5 assigned BCSAR frequencies, Escambia SAR frequencies (CART ops), and select marine VHF channels. The units can also monitor FRS channels 1-6 and NOAA weather. This is the primary radio for communication with the BCSAR command post and other teams. Range depends on conditions but expect 1-2 miles (or more) for reliable conversations.
3. FRS/GMRS radios – optional use by team members, for direct/line of sight communications. These are what are known a “blister-pack” radios and can be found in most department/sporting goods stores. They operate on the UHF band and offer very limited distance. We always operate on privacy code 1.

## Transmission Guidelines

- Transmission should be short
- Speak clearly
- Assume you are being monitored.
- No “10 codes” are to be used
- Us phonetic alphabet for spelling names/words
- Know what you want to say before transmitting
- DO NOT transmit anything you don't want the public to hear

## Transmission Format

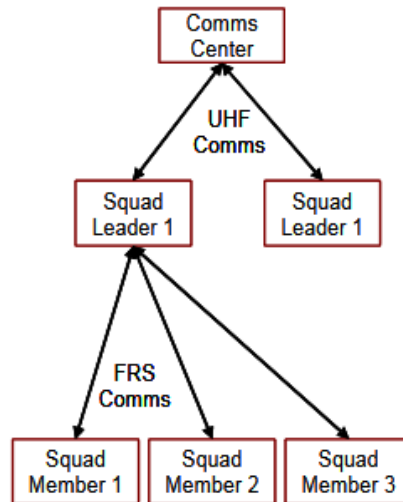
YOU: “SAR (or Team) # to SAR Base”

RESPONSE: “SAR (or Team) # , go ahead”

You can acknowledge the receipt or understanding of a transmission with the term “copy”

Channels for operation and other details (i.e. status checks, etc.) will be covered during team leader briefings.

### Radio Communications for Ground Search



All BCSO-SAR members are encouraged to purchase the small and inexpensive FRS radios, and bring these to call-outs. These radios are particularly useful for communication within a squad, over short distances.

A typical radio communication scheme for a ground search operation is shown in the figure. Here the Communications Center communicates with the Squad Leaders over long range with the UHF radios, while the Squad Leaders communicate with the Squad Team members with FRS radios, over short range.

This scheme follows a communication “chain of command,” and avoids excessive interference in the communication to and from the Communications Center.

<h4 style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">BCSO - SEARCH AND RESCUE Operational Frequency Reference</h4> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-bottom: 10px;"> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">001 BCSAR 1 460.400</td><td style="padding: 2px;">006 ESCA SAR 1 VHF</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">002 BCSAR 2 460.450</td><td style="padding: 2px;">007 ESCA SAR 1 Repeater</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">003 BCSAR 3 460.225</td><td style="padding: 2px;">008 ESCA SAR 2 UHF</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">004 BCSAR 4 460.275</td><td style="padding: 2px;"></td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">005 BCSAR 5 155.370</td><td style="padding: 2px;"></td></tr> </table> <p>MARINE OPERATIONS ONLY ===</p> <table style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top; padding: 2px;">                 009 MARINE 9 Hailing                  010 MARINE 6 SAR                  016 MARINE 16 HAILING                  017 MARINE 17 FL-OPS*                  021 MARINE 21A USCG*                  022 MARINE 22A USCG*                  023 MARINE 23A USCG*                  081 MARINE 81A USCG*                  082 MARINE 82A USCG*                  083 MARINE 83A USCG*                  * WHEN AUTHORIZED             </td> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top; padding: 2px;">                 100 SAR NAT 155.1600  <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; text-align: center; margin: 5px 0;">MONITOR ONLY CHANNELS</div>                 101 FRS 01 monitor                  102 FRS 02 monitor                  103 FRS 03 monitor                  104 FRS 04 monitor                  105 FRS 05 monitor                  106 FRS 06 monitor                  FRS privacy 1 (67.0)                   111 WEATHER NOAA CH1 *                  112 WEATHER NOAA CH2                  113 WEATHER NOAA CH3                  114 WEATHER NOAA CH4                  115 WEATHER NOAA CH5                  116 WEATHER NOAA CH6                  117 WEATHER NOAA CH7                  *Bay County Weather             </td> </tr> </table> <p style="font-size: 1.2em; margin-top: 10px;">SAR _____</p> <div style="border: 1px dashed black; width: 100px; height: 50px; margin-top: 10px;"></div> <p style="text-align: center; margin-top: 10px;"><a href="http://www.BAYSOSAR.org">www.BAYSOSAR.org</a> FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY</p>	001 BCSAR 1 460.400	006 ESCA SAR 1 VHF	002 BCSAR 2 460.450	007 ESCA SAR 1 Repeater	003 BCSAR 3 460.225	008 ESCA SAR 2 UHF	004 BCSAR 4 460.275		005 BCSAR 5 155.370		009 MARINE 9 Hailing 010 MARINE 6 SAR 016 MARINE 16 HAILING 017 MARINE 17 FL-OPS* 021 MARINE 21A USCG* 022 MARINE 22A USCG* 023 MARINE 23A USCG* 081 MARINE 81A USCG* 082 MARINE 82A USCG* 083 MARINE 83A USCG* * WHEN AUTHORIZED	100 SAR NAT 155.1600 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; text-align: center; margin: 5px 0;">MONITOR ONLY CHANNELS</div> 101 FRS 01 monitor 102 FRS 02 monitor 103 FRS 03 monitor 104 FRS 04 monitor 105 FRS 05 monitor 106 FRS 06 monitor FRS privacy 1 (67.0)  111 WEATHER NOAA CH1 * 112 WEATHER NOAA CH2 113 WEATHER NOAA CH3 114 WEATHER NOAA CH4 115 WEATHER NOAA CH5 116 WEATHER NOAA CH6 117 WEATHER NOAA CH7 *Bay County Weather	<div style="border: 1px dashed black; width: 100px; height: 50px; margin-bottom: 10px;"></div> <p>Know what you want to say before transmitting.</p> <p>YOU: SAR*#* to SAR Base RESPONSE: SAR*#* go ahead</p> <p>Transmit your message - clear and brief. 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