

SulCom Backbone Communications Protocols

General Guidance

This document provides details on other essential communications protocols to use in most SulCom programs on the SulCom Backbone, unless guided or specified otherwise.

Relay Station Check-In

Relay stations must check in on the backbone when their team starts operation. This can be any time during the event but the earlier, the better. Remember that this program encourages that all teams be ready to go as far as in advance of the event's activity as possible.

Like the report format, the check-in is intended to be short and to the point:

Example:

Relay Station "64 Relay check-in Central. KB9XYZ"
Sullivan Weather "64 Relay KB9XYZ. WX9MKX." (after all elements above are received.)

The exchange provides Sullivan Weather with the field team, the callsign of the relay station, the resource being used and acknowledgement of receipt, all in about two seconds of air time. No other words are necessary. If information is missing, Sullivan Weather will ask for fill of gaps prior to acknowledging in the manner indicated.

Relay Station Personnel Change

There are times where relay station personnel need to change during an event. Obviously this can occur for several reasons.

Any team that needs to change personnel must inform Sullivan Weather. The reason why the station is changing out is not important, what is important is that Sullivan Weather knows which relay stations are in service and who they are.

Sometimes a backbone resource change is necessary for a relay station personnel change. For example, Team A relay station 1 accesses the backbone via MKX W but Team A relay station 2 needs to access the backbone via MKX C. Sullivan Weather needs to know this information as well so they are not calling the relay station on the incorrect backbone resource.

Like the check-in, the relay station transfer is intended to be short and to the point:

Example 1: Where a Backbone Resource Change IS NOT Required

New Relay Station "64 Relay, relay station change"
Sullivan Weather "64 Relay."
New Relay Station "64 Relay now WB9AAA"
Sullivan Weather "64 Relay WB9AAA. WX9MKX." (after all elements above are received.)

Again, the exchange provides Sullivan Weather with the field team, the callsign of the new relay station, the resource being used and acknowledgement of receipt, all in about two seconds of air time. No other words are necessary. If information is missing, Sullivan Weather will ask for fill of gaps prior to acknowledging in the manner indicated.

Example 2: Where a Backbone Resource Change IS Required

Part 1: Notification on Current Resource (to be done by current relay station)

Orig. Relay Station "64 Relay, relay station change"
Sullivan Weather "64 Relay"
Orig. Relay Station "Relay station change to MKX West, new callsign WB9AAA; KB9XYZ."
Sullivan Weather "WX9MKX." (after all elements above are received.)

Part 2: Confirmation on New Resource (to be done by new relay station after Part 1, above is complete)

New Relay Station "64 Relay check-in West. WB9AAA"
Sullivan Weather "64 Relay WB9AAA. WX9MKX." (after all elements above are received.)

This exchange provides Sullivan Weather with a notification of a resource change for accessing the current field team, the callsign of the new relay station, the new resource being used and acknowledgement of receipt, all in about ten seconds of air time. No other words are necessary. If information is missing, Sullivan Weather will ask for fill of gaps prior to acknowledging in the manner indicated.

Relay Station Check-Out

Relay stations must check out on the backbone when their local team secures operation. The check out procedure follows the check-in procedure as defined above.

Any relay station that needs to check out of the backbone must inform Sullivan Weather. The reason why the station is checking out is not important, what is important is that Sullivan Weather knows which relay stations are in service.

The check out procedure follows the check-in procedure as defined above.

Example:

Relay Station "64 Relay check-out."
Sullivan Weather "Thanks to the team for the work. WX9MKX."
Relay Station "KB9AAA"