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# The Complete CB Handbook

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*The Complete  
CB Handbook*

Jethro K. Lieberman  
and  
Neil S. Rhodes, KXW-0989

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*For our parents, our families, and Linda*

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## THE MOST-ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT CITIZENS BAND RADIO

### **1. What is Citizens Band radio?**

Citizens Band radio, or CB as it is usually called, is a means by which ordinary people with relatively simple and inexpensive equipment can talk to each other from car to car, from car to home, or from one home to another. Citizens Band radio is America's fastest-growing hobby. Under the supervision of an adult, children as young as five years old can operate the equipment and talk to their friends and relatives and even summon help in an emergency situation.

### **2. What can CB be used for? Are there benefits to be derived from it?**

Citizens Band radio is so simple to use it gives anyone the means to reach out to others in his community or when traveling to distant places. With a CB in your car you are never alone. Riding along the road you can use the CB to determine road and weather conditions. If you have a breakdown you can summon aid promptly. You no longer have to worry about waiting until a kindly motorist notices your problem or until a police car happens to come by. Moreover, CB establishes a new kind of community. As one veteran CBER put it, "Once you pick up a microphone, you are part of a group of people with a common bond." Some of these people may even become your friends. CB can provide an extra dimension in your life by linking you with people near and far.

**3. Do I need a license?**

Yes. Under FCC rules it is necessary to submit a license application to the FCC in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. A sample of the license application is included in Chapter 10. A check for \$4 must accompany the application. In order to qualify for the license, you must be at least 18 years old and a United States citizen.

**4. Do I have to take a test?**

No. If you want to use Citizens Band radio as a hobby, there is no test required.

**5. Is CB the same as ham radio?**

No. Ham radio operators use different frequencies than those assigned to CBers. A ham license requires knowledge of the Morse code, and the ham radio transmitters are more powerful than those used by CBers.

**6. Who will I talk with? Do many people have them?**

You will be talking to any of the 6 million people currently estimated to be using Citizens Band radio throughout the United States. These include people from all walks of life. The number of licensed CB operators is growing by leaps and bounds. It is estimated that the FCC is now receiving approximately 500,000 license applications every month.

**7. What may I talk about on CB?**

Almost anything you want. You can catch up on family news, discuss politics, sports, the weather, road conditions, or you can just talk for the sake of talking. It can also be used to summon help in the case of an emergency or to aid someone else whom you discover is in distress.

**8. Is there anything I cannot say over the CB radio?**

Yes. Although the United States enjoys the greatest freedom of speech of any country in the world, there are nevertheless certain laws that govern the use of the public

airwaves. The principal prohibition is against profanity. Though you may use objectionable words in your everyday speech, when you go on the air, your expletives must be deleted. Also, of course, any conversations that would be part of a criminal conspiracy cannot be held on Citizens Band radio. Four teenagers once ignored this rule and planned the theft of some radio equipment over the air using CB. To their surprise, a fellow CB user just happened to be listening and reported the plan to the police, who arrived at the scene of the crime and arrested them before they could take anything at all. The plotting was, nevertheless, a violation of Federal law.

**9. Are Citizens Band radios easy to operate?**

Yes. They are simple enough for even a five-year-old to use. If you can turn your radio on at home, if you know how to change channels on a television set, if you can use a doorbell, then you can use a CB radio. Of course, you can add to your basic CB radio pieces of equipment with many knobs and dials that are more complicated to use. These allow you to have greater control over the transmission and reception of conversations. This equipment is discussed in Chapter 2.

**10. How far will a CB message travel?**

If you have or are listening to equipment with the maximum legal output of four watts, the range of transmission will vary with the geographical conditions from approximately 3 to 20 miles. Occasionally, you will be able to listen to messages coming from even farther away—sometimes up to as much as 30 or 40 miles. The exact distance depends on a number of variables, including the length and position of the antenna, weather conditions, the use of a preamplified microphone, proper matching between the antenna and the transmitter, and whether you are transmitting or listening in a city or out on the open road. In addition, you may use CB radio with single sideband (SSB). These SSB radios have a higher maximum legal output of 12 watts peak envelope power (PEP) and will transmit considerably farther than the normal AM CB radio.

### 11. Do I need a special call sign?

Yes. In return for your \$4 licensing fee the FCC will issue you your own individual call sign. This will be in the form of a code of seven letters and numbers. It begins with a K, then there are two other letters, and then four numbers. You must use the call sign on the air; failure to do so when transmitting is punishable by law. If you are stuck on the road and do not have a call sign or do not use your call sign, emergency services will be reluctant to respond to your call for help.

### 12. What are “handles”?

A “handle” is a code name that you make up yourself and use along with your call letters. In a code name you may express your own personality. “Handles” range from simple relatively unoriginal ones derived, for example, from television or cartoon characters, to such exotic and novel names as “The Cliffhanger,” and “The Number One Jellybelly.”

### 13. Who enforces the laws governing CB?

The basic laws dealing with the airwaves, including the use of the frequencies and call signs, are under the jurisdiction of the Federal Communications Commission, a government agency based in Washington, but with regional offices throughout the United States. Infraction of the federal laws can be enforced only by agents of the FCC. However, certain uses of CB are governed by local laws. For example, some states require that you maintain both hands on the steering wheel while driving. Since many Cbers hold the microphone in one hand while driving, this could conceivably cause problems with alert local policemen.

### 14. How much will I have to pay for CB equipment?

Prices vary. Depending on whether it is to be used in a car or at home, you can spend between \$80 and \$500 for a complete unit. A good basic radio can be purchased for between \$140 and \$225. An adequate antenna will range in price between \$20 and \$30.

### 15. What is the least amount that I can spend for the equipment?

Small, cheap milliwatt transceivers are available, but they are essentially toys. These are the walkie-talkies you see children use, and are priced as low as \$7. You do not need an FCC license to operate these or any walkie-talkie with less than one watt of power. But precisely because they have such low power, they are unacceptable for serious communication. Their range is minimal—no more than a few hundred feet. Moreover, anyone using a walkie-talkie of this strength will discover that they are easily overpowered by nearby full-strength units. The serious CB user should expect to spend \$100 for a full 23-channel transceiver and antenna. You can buy a less expensive unit with fewer channels, but as explained later, this is not recommended.

### 16. Is it wise to save money on an antenna?

No. The antenna determines the distance a message will travel. Therefore, the better the antenna you have, the greater the transmitting distance you will obtain with your equipment. We recommend that you buy the best antenna possible.

### 17. Should I buy used equipment?

As a general rule, the answer is no. It's safer to go to an unknown used car dealer and buy a used car sight unseen than it is to buy a piece of used CB equipment. Many amateurs tinker with their equipment in an attempt to increase the maximum output without knowing what they're doing. The result can be equipment that burns out easily. If you wish to buy used equipment you should insist on seeing the seller use it and then trying it yourself. This means you must test each channel and each control knob. Let it run awhile. You should transmit to see how far your message travels and you should check for dents to be sure that it has not been dropped—internal parts get damaged that way.

**18. What is the minimum amount of equipment I need to go on the air?**

There are three basic elements to any operating CB station. The basic unit, of course, is the transceiver. This is both a transmitter and a radio receiver. In order to transmit, you need a microphone; this usually is sold with the transceiver, but you can buy it separately. Finally, you need an antenna. As a general rule, you must buy the antenna separately.

**19. Is there any optional equipment that I can put on the basic unit?**

Yes. There are dozens of additional pieces that can be purchased. These are discussed in Chapter 2.

**20. Where can I use CB?**

Citizens Band radio can be used almost anywhere. It can be carried around with you in the form of a walkie-talkie on the golf course, while shopping, or hiking in the woods. It can be installed as a base unit in the home or in an office. Or it can be used as a mobile unit in your car, boat, or motorcycle.

**21. Will the make or brand of my car determine what equipment I must buy?**

No. CB equipment is compatible with any car on the road. However, different cars present different kinds of installation problems. See Chapter 5 in this book for details on installations.

**22. Can I use the same CB unit in more than one car?**

Yes. Mounting brackets are available that enable the CBer to slip a mobile unit easily in and out of a car. The problem will be the antenna, which must be switched from car to car also. This is not so easy to do, so it is advisable, if you wish to use a unit in more than one car frequently, to install a separate permanent antenna on each.

**23. Can I use my car CB in my home?**

Yes. To do so, you need to buy a power pack, which converts home current into the 12 volts used in cars. Power packs are discussed in Chapter 2. For your home you will need a separate base antenna and a separate mounting bracket which will allow you to make the change in a matter of seconds.

**24. If I am planning to use CB in both my home and my car, is it better to buy two separate units?**

There is no simple answer to this question. If you can afford to buy a second unit, of course, it is better to buy the base and the mobile unit because you will avoid having to move the mobile unit back and forth from car to home. Also, with two units you will be able to contact your home while you are driving. If you don't take your equipment into the car with you, your spouse or children also can use the CB equipment at home if they want to. Of course, since it is considerably more expensive to buy two CB units, you may want to make do with one. In that case you will have to purchase a mobile rather than a base unit. The proper equipment is easy to install, and with it you can quickly adapt your mobile unit to home or car.

**25. What are the advantages of a base unit?**

Base units are decorative, designed specifically for use in any room of the home. More important, the range of the base is greater than that of the mobile unit because superior antennas can be installed at a fixed location.

**26. What are the advantages of a mobile unit?**

The obvious advantage of the mobile unit is that it is portable. As we mentioned before, it enables a driver to obtain traffic reports and weather conditions ahead of him. He can also use the mobile unit to summon emergency help.

**27. How do high-powered walkie-talkies compare to mobile and base units?**

Generally speaking, the high-powered walkie-talkies—that is, walkie-talkies that are not toys—are almost as good as mobile and base units. However, they are subject to two important limitations. First is the size of the antenna. Because the antenna is built in, it does not have the range that either a car antenna or a fixed antenna will have. The second limitation depends on the condition of the batteries. The distance a walkie-talkie can reach will decrease as the batteries age. Some high-powered walkie-talkies are made so that they can accept house current and can be attached to a base antenna.

### **28. Is CB easy to install?**

Installing a mobile CB in your car is as easy as installing a tape deck. Installing a base unit in the home is as easy as installing a television set. Installing the antenna for a base unit is slightly more difficult but should take no more than two hours. Installing a car antenna is much simpler and faster.

### **29. Does installation of the CB unit or antenna require any special tools?**

No. All that you need to install the equipment are the following: an assortment of screwdrivers, a drill and drill bits, an awl, a wrench, soldering iron and solder, and electrical tape. If available, a 12-volt test light would be helpful.

### **30. How do I install the CB equipment?**

Complete instructions are given in Chapter 5.

### **31. Who makes CB equipment?**

Until recently, CB equipment was made by manufacturers that specialize in the production of two-way communication systems. Among the best-known of these specialized companies are Midland, Hy-Gain, Sharpe, Browning, Regency, Royce, Cobra, Courier, E. F. Johnson, Radio Shack, Lafayette, Pace, Pearce-Simpson, SBE, Teaberry, and Tram. However, beginning in the last year or so, many

of the well-known radio and TV manufacturing companies have entered the market as well. These include Panasonic, Craig, Sony, RCA, Motorola, and GE.

### **32. What is the difference between a CB unit and a scanner?**

Scanners are used simply for listening to conversations, and as a general rule, they will not transmit. Their primary use is for monitoring emergency frequencies. Some scanners will not pick up CB channels; instead they are limited to higher frequencies such as police and fire emergency channels.

### **33. How critical is the size of the radio that I buy?**

Size of the radio is often a critical factor in mobile units. Because car interiors are different it is necessary to measure the available space before making your purchase. Some units come split, with the power pack separate from the control unit. This allows the power unit to be placed in the trunk or glove compartment or under the dashboard, which gives you more flexibility in the installation of the master control unit.

### **34. What is the maximum output in watts allowed under the FCC rules?**

Four watts.

### **35. What is meant when an advertiser claims his CB unit is five watts?**

A five-watt-output unit is unlawful under FCC rules. However, the FCC does allow a five-watt-input unit. Some advertisers try to mislead the consumer by failing to make it clear that the five watts refers to input rather than to output. The output power is one factor which determines the distance the message will travel.

### **36. Can I talk and listen at the same time on my CB unit?**

No. The CB is not a telephone. Pressing the transmit key

on the microphone disengages the receiver, so that no incoming sound can be heard.

**37. Is it hard to use the microphone?**

No. Simply hold the microphone about two inches from the mouth, press the button ("key the mike"), and talk normally.

**38. Can I operate a car CB with the motor off?**

Yes. If you do, however, you will not have full power for transmission. In other words, the mobile CB unit operates most efficiently while the car is running.

**39. What can I do about car noises?**

Car noises are produced by moving parts within the car. Alternators, heater motors, spark-plug wires, windshield-wiper motors, and some other parts will produce noises that may interfere with the operation of the CB unit. If your automobile has a rotary engine with twin distributors you will have an excess amount of noise. Many CB units come with a special circuit that filters out car noise. A large variety of filters to eliminate special noises are available at most radio dealers.

**40. Can I keep my car AM-FM radio on while using the CB unit?**

Yes. Almost every CB unit is equipped with a squelch control. By adjusting the control, distant and barely audible CB transmissions will be suppressed. This allows only nearby and plainly audible transmissions to interfere with your car radio, or tape deck. A relatively new option, called a "radio killer," will automatically suppress your radio or tape deck when you receive an incoming CB transmission.

**41. Do I need a separate speaker with my system?**

No. All CB radios come with built-in speakers. However, because of car noises and problems in positioning the CB unit in your automobile you may want to place a speaker

close to where you are sitting. To do this, you will need an auxiliary speaker, which can easily be plugged into the rear of the CB unit. A different plug will allow you to connect an external speaker to the CB radio unit. This external speaker can be used as a public-address system, for emergency use, or for listening to the radio from outside the car.

**42. Should I buy a CB radio with a built-in clock?**

No. A clock is an extraneous option that may only cause problems. If you need a clock, it is better to install it separately.

**43. What special maintenance or servicing will my CB unit require?**

No periodic checkup is required. Solid-state radios should not go out of tune unless they are tampered with. A good radio should last five to eight years with normal use.

**44. Can I use my car radio antenna, or must I install a new special antenna?**

A special antenna is necessary. The CB unit will not work well on a car radio antenna.

**45. A salesman has recommended that I buy twin antennas. Are these useful?**

Twin antennas cover twice as much receiving and transmitting area. To be effective, however, they must be placed a certain distance apart as specified by the manufacturer. Quite often a private automobile does not have sufficient space to allow the most efficient installation. Trucks, because they are considerably wider than automobiles, can make effective use of twin antennas, and you will frequently see trucks with double antennas on the highway.

**46. How many CB channels are there?**

There are currently 23 channels on the CB AM band. In addition, there are 23 channels on the lower sideband and

23 channels on the upper sideband for a total of 46 extra channels or a sum total of 69 channels in all. The FCC is considering opening up to Citizens Band use another 27 channels on the AM band. If the single sidebands on these channels are opened as well, the CB user would have available a grand total of 150 channels.

**47. Do all CB radios have the same number of channels?**

No. Some walkie-talkies operate on only one channel, and some CB units have as few as three channels.

**48. Do I need a CB unit with all 23 channels?**

No. However, without a full complement of channels, your flexibility is severely limited. In fact, with only three channels, you may not be able to talk at all. There are 6-, 8-, and 12-channel radios that will allow you some access to the airwaves for carrying on private conversations. Obviously, the more channels you have the greater the chance that you will find a frequency that is relatively free.

**49. Can I talk on all 23 channels?**

No. FCC regulations restrict the use of Channels 9 and 11 (see Chapter 7).

**50. Are the CB channels the same as those used by the police, fire department, and taxis?**

No. Police, fire department, and taxis use higher-frequency ranges. To monitor these frequencies, you will need to purchase a separate scanner. But these require special crystals that cannot be purchased without specific authorization.

**51. I have heard CBers talk on the air and couldn't understand a word they were saying. What language were they speaking?**

They are speaking a language developed by American truckers over the past several years. While the language is fundamentally English, there are literally hundreds of words and phrases that have a special meaning of their

own. The meaning of these words and how they are used is fully explained in the next section and in Chapter 6.

**52. What is the ten code?**

This is the code with which millions of Americans who have watched television police shows have become familiar. The police ten code and the CB ten code are quite similar. The code consists of numbers with a specific meaning. While there are some local differences in usage, the most universal meanings for the CB ten code have been printed on the inside back cover of this book for handy reference.

**53. How can I meet other CB users?**

First, get on the air and talk. You will sometimes hear an announcement that a group of CBers will form an "eyeball." This means that whoever is listening is invited to come to a designated meetingplace. From time to time in any given area there will also be what are known as "coffee breaks." These are occasions where CBers come together in parking lots, or auditoriums, or other convenient meeting places to buy and sell and swap equipment. These are attended by merchants as well as individual operators. Announcements of coffee breaks can be obtained in local radio stores and by listening on the air. Finally, there are clubs and organizations that you may join if you want to devote spare time to both the hobby and community service. One of the most prominent of these is REACT, which is discussed in Chapter 9. Listings of the more informal clubs may be found in many of the CB magazines.

**54. What is a Q code or Q signal?**

The Q code is a variation of the ten code, used primarily by ships. The Q code is shown in Chapter 6.

**55. May I use my CB equipment anywhere in the United States?**

Yes. FCC rules permit you to use your license in any of the 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and all territories of the United States.

### 56. Will my FCC license be honored outside the United States and its territories?

No. The FCC license is good only within the United States. That does not mean, however, that you may not use CB equipment while traveling abroad. Many countries will permit you to operate CB equipment provided that you get prior clearance. How to go about doing so is discussed in Chapter 12.

### 57. Will CB radios left in cars tempt thieves?

Definitely. The use of a sliding mounting bracket is highly recommended so that you can remove the unit and either store it in the trunk or take it with you when you leave your car. Some insurance companies will not insure sliding brackets under their normal policies. Check with your agent and consider taking out an insurance floater (like the kind that covers such things as jewelry).

## HOW DO I TALK ON CB?

This is the big question, of course. The best way to answer it is to describe the procedure and language you would use in a number of specific situations.

### 1. How to start a conversation

You're in your car, heading out to the highway, having just installed your first CB radio. You flip on the switch and hear what sounds like dozens of people talking. Someone sounds like he's nearby and you decide you want to talk to him. How do you do it?

It's easy.

Let's assume you're on Channel 19, the trucker's channel in certain locations (see Chapter 7). All you do is pick up the microphone, depress the button, and say:

"Breaker One Nine."

This means that you wish to break into a conversation or initiate a conversation on Channel 19. Note that it is customary to refer to channel number by each digit. That is, you say "One Nine" rather than "Nineteen."

What's next?

Normally, you then wait a few seconds for the speaker to finish his sentence and acknowledge you or, if there wasn't a current conversation, for someone to acknowledge your "breaker" and to tell you to go ahead.

He will say one of many things, such as: "Pick it up breaker" or "Come on breaker" or "How about the breaker" or "any breakers, pick it up."

Now simply identify yourself with your code name ("handle") and call sign and say what you want to say.

But you wanted to talk to someone in particular, not just anyone who happens to be listening. What do you do? Again, it's simple: Simply say, "Breaker One Nine for Jelly Belly." This assumes, of course, that you know his handle.

You may have heard him so identify himself or heard someone else refer to him by that handle.

Suppose, however, that you don't know his handle. In that case, don't keep quiet, but ask for the person who was talking about whatever it was he was talking about. For instance, suppose your close-sounding voice was talking about a microphone. Then all you do is say, "Breaker One Nine for the person talking about microphones."

Suppose you haven't heard anyone talk, but happen to see a car driving along with a CB antenna and you wish to talk to the driver. You say: "Breaker One Nine for that blue Mustang traveling west." Very often, you will hear it put somewhat more familiarly: "Breaker One Nine, how about that blue Mustang heading west. Do you have your ears on?"

Now, perhaps you're coming into a particular town—say, Danville—and you wish to talk to someone there. You would say: "Breaker One Nine for a Danville base." Or "Breaker One Nine for somebody in Danville." By doing so, you may reach someone in a car ("mobile") or in a fixed location, like his home ("base").

### 2. How to ask for traffic conditions

Let's say you're in your car, heading eastbound on Route 80. You want to know what's happening on the road up ahead; for instance, are there any traffic tie-ups, are the police patrolling, and if so, where? Here's all you do. You

say: "Breaker One Nine for a Ten Thirteen eastbound on Route Eight Oh." Or, you can find someone traveling west (called a "westbounder") and ask: "How's it looking over your shoulder?" This means, of course, that he is to tell you what it's like on the road down which he's just traveled.

Since truckers frequently ask for this kind of information, they have developed a system called a "convoy" to monitor road conditions. You may discover that the best way to get this information is by joining or forming your own convoy. All it takes is two cars. The lead car is called the "front door." The rear car is called the "back door." It is the job of the front door to look out and report on any traffic conditions that he sights—remember, he will be sighting them first. The back door's job is to watch behind and report on any fast-moving vehicles coming up or any other traffic conditions, such as a patrol car coming onto a highway.

How do you form a convoy? If in asking for a Ten Thirteen, you discover that the other car is ahead of you, simply announce that he's the front door and you're in back. Make sure you have his handle and let him know yours. That way, you can keep each other company as you travel.

A convoy is not limited to two cars, however. Any number of trucks and cars can play. The cars or trucks in between the front and back doors are said to be sitting in "the rocking chair." This is the most comfortable way to drive from a CBer's point of view.

Having asked the question, what are you likely to be told? A common response might be: "You're clean and green to milemarker 17." This simply means that the road is clear, there being neither police in sight nor any congestion on the road. Or you may be told: "There's a smokey taking pictures." This means that a police car with radar is sitting up ahead. You also may be told that just past Exit 31, "be prepared to back it down; there are flag wavers on the road." This means go slow, watch out for construction workers.

Of course, these are just a few examples of the answers you might get. You can turn to Chapter 6 for some extended explanations of real-life conversations. And in the

CB-English, English-CB dictionaries, you will find the most up-to-date glossary of CB terms available.

### 3. How to find out what time it is

You're in a car without a clock and you'd like to find out the correct time. To do this, simply say: "Breaker One Nine for a Ten Thirty-Six." This means, "Will someone please tell me what time it is?"

Why would you want to do this? Can't you look at your watch? Well, you might not have your watch on. More importantly, you might not be able to see your watch without taking your eyes off the road. Or it might be night and too dark to see it.

### 4. How to get directions

Many times while traveling in strange surroundings or on unknown highways you may be lost or afraid you're about to get lost. You can avoid this problem with CB. You can "break" for a local base or contact a local mobile. On major highways, truckers often carry maps and are usually willing to help. So, just say: "Breaker One Nine for information." When someone says, "Go ahead breaker," ask him how to find Main Street. He'll say: "What's your twenty?" He's asking you to tell him where you are (that is, your location at the moment you're talking). You may or may not know. If you've just passed a highway exit, you have a pretty good fix on your whereabouts. If you haven't, wait for a milemarker or some other landmark and tell him that.

### 5. How to get a police report

Getting a police report is much the same as getting a traffic report. But because truckers have always liked to travel fast, the exact location of the police is a major concern, and a large and colorful vocabulary has grown up around this particular problem. Some questions you might hear or ask on the road:

"Breaker One Nine, How about a smokey report eastbound?"

“Breaker One Nine. Are there any Ten Seventy-Threes?”

“Breaker One Nine. What’s the bear situation?”

As you will gather, “smokey” and “bear” are the most common terms for the police. But there are plenty of others, and you’ll find these in the dictionary in this book.

Some common replies:

“You got a bear in the air.” (A police helicopter up above—note that police helicopters can clock your speed and notify a waiting patrol car on the ground.)

“There’s a smokey on the move with his candles lit.” (This means a policeman is moving down the road fast with his lights on.)

“Smokey with a picture taker.” (Police with radar.)

## 6. How to get the weather

It’s getting darker on the road and it’s only midafternoon. You have a good idea that you may be in for some rough weather, but you don’t know how far ahead or how bad it is. With CB, you can find out.

You can ask for a Ten Thirteen. As explained under how to ask for traffic conditions, this is a basic request for all road conditions, including weather. If you want to be more specific, find someone traveling from your destination and ask him how it looks. For example:

“Breaker One Nine. Looking for someone traveling south from Danville.”

“You got him” (he replies).

“How’s the weather on the way to Danville?”

## 7. How to get emergency assistance

Let’s say you have a flat tire, you run out of gas, you spot an accident, you need medical assistance, or you are in need of assistance for some other problem. Again, it’s easy.

Turn to Channel Nine. The FCC has designated this as the emergency channel. Identify yourself, using your call letters, stating the fact that you are a mobile unit, calling REACT or any other emergency group. When your call is acknowledged, give exact location, including city and state or position on highway. Explain the situation as fully as possible, giving the number of vehicles and people in-

involved, nature of possible injuries, and whether or not traffic is being blocked if you are reporting an accident. Wait at the scene until emergency assistance arrives.

If you get no response on Channel 9, turn to Channel 19 and ask for help as before. When talking on Channel 19, begin by saying: “Breaker One Nine for a Ten Thirty-Three” (emergency).

If there is no response on Channel 19, turn to each channel until you find a conversation in progress, break in, and state the emergency, and ask that your message be relayed by radio or telephone to the proper authorities. A relayed message is known as a “Ten Five,” so you could say, for example, “Breaker Two Three, I need a Ten Five emergency transmission to REACT on Channel Nine,” and go on to give the details of your situation.

## 8. How to contact the police

Police in many states are beginning to install CB radios in patrol cars for monitoring traffic reports. It would not be fair to suggest that most police now have or will shortly have such rigs, but the number is growing, and it is entirely possible if you simply put out a call on the air for the police that a police car will pick up your message. But chances are that you won’t know that they have, because police rarely respond on the CB channels. You won’t know that they heard you until they actually arrive at the scene of the accident or other emergency.

To make the call, say: “Breaker One Nine, if we have any smokeys out there with ears on, there is an accident at . . .”

Notice that you would report the accident on Channel 19 rather than the emergency Channel 9 because the police monitor the truckers’ channel. They do this for two reasons. First, general conversation on the truckers’ channel opens up large portions of the highways to the police that they cannot see. Truckers point out to each other the whereabouts of drunk drivers, speeders, and other law violators that the police might miss. Second, the police are interested in reports about themselves; they like to know when somebody is reporting to other motorists that they are sitting at milepost 16 or wherever. Wouldn’t you?