



Arizona Radio Observatory

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MEMORANDUM

To: All ARO Personnel
From: Thomas Folkers
Date: March 21, 2006
Subject: **MGIO Radio Instructions**

All,

At our last MGIO operations managers meeting it was brought to my attention that there has been numerous incidents on the access road involving incorrect radio clearance. Now most of these complaints were in regard to contractors and I was not told of any ARO personnel having problems, but now would be a good time to review the rules. Here are the radio instructions straight from our web page:

http://aro.as.arizona.edu/smt_docs/radio_instructions.htm

1. Make sure that the radio is turned on and you have selected channel #1 (MGIO radio repeater, located on Heliograph Peak) or channel #2 (bypassing the repeater). Do not use any other channels except in an emergency.
2. On Motorola Radios: The small toggle switch (scan switch) on the top of the hand-held radio should be to the left for normal operation.
3. When you arrive at the bottom of the access road you will need to call up for traffic clearance. Example follows:

"Is there any downhill traffic on the access road?" If there is no response you then say "one vehicle (or however many) proceeding up the access road." You would use the same text for going downhill, but ask for uphill traffic, then alert that you are proceeding down. Be aware that there may still be traffic on the access road. Drive with caution.

During winter when snow plowing is in progress, ADOT will have the road blocked. You may want to place your radio in scan mode. Switch to ADOT's repeater frequency (channel 6) and advise ADOT Dispatch that you are at the snow closure gate. They will send a person to open the gate and escort you through the snow plow closure area. If you can't get through to ADOT call down to the Safford base camp (Unit 30), and as time allows they will alert ADOT for you. After contacting ADOT dispatch, be sure to return your radio to channel 1 to monitor MGIO radio traffic. ADOT also has the MGIO frequencies on their radios but may not be monitoring the MGIO channel. During snow plowing operations, when you leave the MGIO site or pass through the gate at the end of the pavement, please notify MGIO personnel alerting them that you are moving through the unpaved section of roadway.

Three additional things to note:

1. Wait a second after you press the mike button before you begin talking to allow time for the repeater to kick in.
2. Make sure you call for clearance going both up and down the access road.
3. We must clear our calls when we are done. i.e. "Unit #98 Clear" as your last transmission.

Thanks,

Thomas Folkers

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "T. Folkers", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Operations Manager