

## Amateur Radio Wilderness Protocol & "LiTZ"

Two simple radio procedures offer a chance to be heard when it is needed the most!

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**(1) The Wilderness Protocol** is a suggestion that stations who are in wilderness areas or in areas not near repeater stations should monitor standard simplex calling channels at specific times in case others have emergency or priority calls. Suggested frequencies include:

- 146.520 MHz - Primary Frequency
  - 52.525 MHz - Secondary A
  - 223.500 MHz - Secondary B
  - 446.000 MHz - Secondary C
  - 1294.500 MHz - Secondary D
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The idea is to allow hams that are hiking or backpacking in uninhabited areas, or outside of repeater range an alternative opportunity to be heard.

***NOTE** – This is NOT just for hikers, backpackers, or similar situations--it is for ANYONE to use at ANYTIME that you need assistance. As a veteran backpacker and traveler, I strongly suggest to all, by monitoring and using these frequencies when repeater coverage is sparse or nonexistent, you could very well save a life (and one that quite possibly could be your own).*

**(2) LONG TONE ZERO (LiTZ<sup>1</sup>)** The LiTZ signal consists of transmitting DTMF (touch tone) Zero for at least 3 seconds. After sending the **LiTZ** signal the operator announces by voice the kind of assistance that is needed. Use **LiTZ** only when your voice calls go unanswered or the people who respond can't help you. Many operators will recognize and respond to the **LiTZ** signal. You may use LiTZ in conjunction with the Wilderness Protocol.

Recommended Use of the **Wilderness Protocol** (monitored every 3 hours, from 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. (local time), and at the top of each hour for 5 minutes, minimum)

- **Monitor the Primary frequency** (146.520MHz) and any or all of the Secondary Frequencies (52.525, 223.500, 446.00, and 1294.500)
- **Monitor Timing** - Every 3 hours from 7:00a.m through 10:00p.m. (local time), from the top of the hour until 5 minutes past the hour. (Examples: 7:00-7:05 a.m.; 10:00- 10:05 a.m.; 10:00-10:05 p.m.)
- **Alternative Monitor Timing** - Five minutes before the hour until 5 minutes past the hour. (Examples: 4:55-5:05p.m.; 10:55-11 :05a.m., etc.)
- **Enhanced Monitoring** - Fixed stations or portable stations with enough battery power levels are suggested to LISTEN EVERY HOUR. (Obviously continuous monitoring is also an option if applicable.)
- **Monitor Scanning** - Consider entering- 146.52 MHz, 52.525, 223.5, 446.0 and 1294.5 MHz in to your HT/portable/mobile radio, or extended scanner radio.

***NOTE** - 146.52 IS A NATIONAL CALLING FREQUENCY--Make your calls, and then move off the calling frequency so others can use the frequency. Suggested frequencies to move to are: 146.55, 146.43, etc.*

Compiled by Joseph Wozniak, KD0EFW for use by the St. Louis and Suburban Radio Club and St. Louis County ARES

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1 The "i" is added for ease of pronunciation.