

## **FAQ: Radiograms and Radio Relay International**

What is a radiogram? A radiogram is simply a telegram message transmitted via an emergency communications network maintained by volunteer radio amateurs. This network, called Radio Relay International (RRI), operates 365 days per year, 24-hours per day using a variety of communications modes, from radiotelegraphy to the latest digital methods.

What is Radio Relay International? RRI is a decentralized, survivable communications network that is always available for public service communications in time of emergency. Unlike cellular data networks or the Internet, RRI does not rely on communications towers, fiber optic cables, or central offices, which are vulnerable to disaster. Because of this, RRI is always available for emergency communications regardless of disaster conditions.

Why would someone use RRI when there is no emergency in progress? Radiograms are originated via RRI throughout the year to exercise the network, train operators and maintain the network facilities. Any message of a non-business nature, which does not violate FCC Regulations, is permitted.

How does it work? A message can enter the network from any location in the world (subject to FCC regulations and international agreements). It is then routed via the RRI system to the volunteer radio amateur nearest the addressee, who is then responsible for delivery.

How are messages delivered? Routine messages may be delivered via telephone call, e-mail, post office or personal delivery. Higher priority messages are typically delivered via telephone call or in person. Within an emergency services environment, such as police, fire or emergency management operations, hard-copy or electronic delivery is common.

Why use RRI when one can simply e-mail the message directly? Remember; the idea is to exercise a survivable communications system that will continue to operate even when local telephone and Internet service is unavailable due to natural disaster, technological disaster or a coordinated terrorist attack. Therefore, routine messages must pass entirely through the RRI system to exercise our networks before delivery to the addressee can be made.

Is there a charge for this service? No charge is made for the transmission of radiograms. This is a volunteer public service provided by Radio Relay International.

Why is the radiogram in “all capitals?” No one is “shouting.” Radiograms, like telegrams, are transcribed in all capitals because some communications modes do not distinguish between upper and lower case. The use of all-capitals makes it clear to the recipient that the message may have been conveyed using a mode of communications, which is not case-sensitive.

Please visit the following web page to learn more about Radio Relay International:  
[www.radio-relay.org](http://www.radio-relay.org)