

LiTZ Overview  
 Mutual assistance procedures for VHF/UHF FM  
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## INTRODUCTION

One of the great features of Amateur Radio is that it gives Hams the ability to provide mutual assistance to one another. There are two common procedures currently in place for mutual assistance on UHF/VHF FM frequencies. The first is "LiTZ" a DTMF (touch-tone) based all call priority alerting system. The second is the "Wilderness Protocol" LiTZ (i-added to make it easier to pronounce). LiTZ is a simple method to indicate to others on a UHF/VHF FM radio channel that you have an immediate need to communicate with someone, anyone, regarding a priority, situation or condition. LiTZ stands for, Long Term Zero. 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. For example, (5 seconds-DTMF- ZERO, "This is KA7BCD, I am on interstate 5 between mileposts 154-155. There's a 3-car accident in the southbound lane. Traffic has been completely blocked. It looks like paramedics will be needed for victims. Please respond if you can contact authorities for help. This is KA7BCD."

If your situation does not involve safety of life or property, try giving a general voice call before using LiTZ. Use LiTZ only when your call goes unanswered or the people who respond can't help you.

When you see the notation, "LiTZ" for a repeater in this directory, that means that it is highly likely that someone will hear and respond to LiTZ signals transmitted on the input frequency of the repeater. Please note however, if a CTCSS tone is needed to access the repeater you should transmit that CTCSS tone along with the LiTZ signal.

The type and nature of calls that justify the use of LiTZ may vary from repeater to repeater, just as other uses vary. Here are some general guidelines that may be suitable for most repeater and simplex calling channels. Items with a star (\*) should be acceptable on any frequency at any time.

## LiTZ USE GUIDELINES

Event/Situation	WAKING HOURS (0700-2200LT)	SLEEPING HOURS (2200-0700LT)
Calling CQ	no	no
Calling a Buddy	no	no
Weekly Test of LiTZ	yes	no
Club Message	yes	no
Need Driving Directions	yes	no
Report Drunk Driver	yes*	yes*
Car Breakdown	yes*	yes*
Safety of Life or Property	yes*	yes*

For more information on LiTZ and LiTZ decoders refer to QST (Oct 92 Page 82; Nov 92 pages 108-110; Dec 95 pages 25-31).