



To: All Backcountry Travelers in New Mexico
Re: Backcountry Communications Frequencies

The guides from Beverly Mountain Guides has been working with the communication aspect of our personal and professional operations in the field for the past several years. Last year, when COVID hit, and there was a mad dash for backcountry equipment, we knew there was going to be a marked increase in backcountry travelers, especially near trailheads. We markedly increased our avalanche safety education program, but it's not enough.

Over the past 35 years I have personally seen the New Mexico backcountry scene explode. Up until 20 years ago I rarely, if ever, saw any ski tracks in the backcountry. Now, it is rare for me not to see someone in the backcountry while teaching avalanche courses or ski guiding. As the largest and most expansive backcountry ski guiding company in New Mexico, we feel it is time to add this measure in the wake of recent events.

With the advent of the last several avalanche accidents involving not only multiple parties, but also multiple victims, we have decided that there needs to be radio communications established in NM that will help prevent accidents like those in the neighboring states. WA, UT, and CO have already adopted common frequencies using the Link 1.0 or Link 2.0 by Backcountry Access (BCA).

We will be going with the Link Channel D 5.10 for all regular communications in NM.

We will be going with the Link Channel E 9.11 for all ongoing search and rescue operations.

Calling for help should be performed on Channel D 5.10 as nobody listens to Channel E 9.11. Formal NM SAR operations function on 155.160 and the BCA Link is not capable of transmitting on this frequency.

To use the channel, simply dial in the frequency for all line of sight transmissions. Blind calls should be made when getting ready to drop in and repeated twice and separated by a :30 sec pause, just in case others did not hear your initial call.

For example:

"Team of 4 getting ready to drop in on Peace Sign."

Wait for :30 seconds

"Team of 4 getting ready to drop in on Peace Sign."

Remember to keep the chatter to a minimum.

If you don't have a BCA Link, then you can correlate these frequencies with your FCC approved device. Remember to check rules, laws, and regulations, especially if you are using a radio from outside the USA.

We hope that this help averts a disaster that doesn't need to happen. Until there's a better plan in place, or until technology improves, we feel that this is a step in the right direction. Please let us know if you happen to find this useful or have had an experience that would have been a near-miss.

Best,

James Marc Beverly, PhD, IFMGA Mountain Guide
Beverly Mountain Guides, Owner

Below are the corresponding frequencies used for FRS and GMRS radios.

BC Link 2.0 Frequency Chart: North America			
Channel	Frequency (MGz)	Description	Power (W)
1	462.5625	FRS	2
2	462.5875	FRS	2
3	462.6125	FRS	2
4	462.6375	FRS	2
5	462.6625	FRS	2
6	462.6875	FRS	2
7	462.7125	FRS	2
8	467.5625	FRS	0.5
9	467.5875	FRS	0.5
10	467.6125	FRS	0.5
11	467.6375	FRS	0.5
12	467.6625	FRS	0.5
13	467.6875	FRS	0.5
14	467.7125	FRS	0.5
15	462.5500	GMRS	2
16	462.5750	GMRS	2
17	462.6000	GMRS	2
18	462.6250	GMRS	2
19	462.6500	GMRS	2
20	462.6750	GMRS	2
21	462.7000	GMRS	2
22	462.7250	GMRS	0.5

CTCSS (No.)	Frequency (Hz)
1	67
2	71.9
3	74.4
4	77
5	79.7
6	82.5
7	85.4
8	88.5
9	91.5
10	94.8
11	97.4
12	100
13	103.5
14	107.2
15	110.9
16	114.8
17	118.8
18	123
19	127.3
20	131.8
21	136.5
22	141.3

BC Link Frequency Chart: North America			
Channel	Frequency (MGz)	Description	Power (W)
1	462.5625	GMRS/FRS	1
2	462.5875	GMRS/FRS	1
3	462.6125	GMRS/FRS	1
4	462.6375	GMRS/FRS	1
5	462.6625	GMRS/FRS	1
6	462.6875	GMRS/FRS	1
7	462.7125	GMRS/FRS	1
8	467.5625	FRS	0.5
9	467.5875	FRS	0.5
10	467.6125	FRS	0.5
11	467.6375	FRS	0.5
12	467.6625	FRS	0.5
13	467.6875	FRS	0.5
14	467.7125	FRS	0.5
15	462.5500	GMRS	1
16	462.5750	GMRS	1
17	462.6000	GMRS	1
18	462.6250	GMRS	1
19	462.6500	GMRS	1
20	462.6750	GMRS	1
21	462.7000	GMRS	1
22	462.7250	GMRS	0.5

23	146.2
24	151.4
25	156.7
26	162.2
27	167.9
28	173.8
29	179.9
30	186.2
31	192.8
32	203.5
33	210.7
34	218.1
35	225.7
36	233.6
37	241.8
38	250.3