

# Fiddletown Neighborhood Radio Watch Program

## ***General Mobile Radio Service: What it is and how to get started***

### ***If cell phone and Internet service fail and you can't reach 911 or emergency services...How Will You Keep Your Family Safe?***

Over 50% of US homeowners and 70% of renters depend entirely upon cell phones to stay in touch with their friends, families, and emergency services. Cell phones, in turn, depend upon billions of dollars of technology to not fail.

But the last few years have seen a dramatic rise in the frequency and intensity of storms, fires, and power shutdowns – events that disrupt vital communications services and place lives at risk.

As the recent PG&E power shutdowns have shown, Amador County is no exception. Critically, we also sit in the middle of a *Very Fire Hazard Severity Zone* according to CalFire.

How will you keep yourself, your family and friends safe in a disaster when landline, cell phone, and Internet service fails?

Our *Neighborhood Radio Watch Program* offers a solution...

### **Radio For the Rest of Us**

For years, Amateur Radio Operators (aka "Hams"), have used radios when normal communications fail. Radio also aids *First Responders* during disasters. However, it's become increasingly critical for "*The Rest of Us*," our families, our friends, and our community, to also have access to reliable communications when cell phone and Internet services fail.

***Neighborhood Radio Watch Programs ARE NOT a replacement for Emergency Services such as Police, Fire, the Sheriff's Office or 911. These programs are intended solely as a backup communications solution When All Else Fails.***

#### **1. What does GMRS stand for?**

General Mobile Radio Service

#### **2. What is it?**

A portion of the UHF (Ultra High Frequency) radio band set aside by the Federal Communications Commission for GMRS usage.

#### **3. What is required by the Federal Communications Commission to be able to communicate on the GMRS frequencies?**

Must be licensed by the FCC.

# Fiddletown Neighborhood Radio Watch Program

## 4. Steps needed to apply for your GMRS License.

The cost for a GMRS license is \$35 and is valid for 10 yrs. You must first register with the FCC to obtain a Federal Registration Number (FRN). Go to <https://apps.fcc.gov/coresWeb/publicHome.do> to register for a FRN number. You will be prompted to register and provide a username prior to obtaining your FRN. No cost is involved in obtaining a FRN number.

## 5. How do I obtain a GMRS license from the FCC?

1. Go to <https://wireless2.fcc.gov/UlsEntry/licManager/login.jsp> and log in with your FRN and password. On the left side of the page, click “Apply for a New License” link. You may have to copy the link into your browser for it to work.
2. Choose ZA – “General Mobile Radio Service (GMRS)” from the radio service drop-down list.
3. Click “Continue” to navigate through the application. If you’re unsure how to answer some of the questions, use the default values.
4. On the Summary page, review your application and click the “Continue to Certify” button to continue.
5. On the certification page, sign your application by typing in your name and click the “SUBMIT APPLICATION” button. (The Title box is optional.)
6. The form will calculate your fees. Fees for online filing MUST be received within 10 calendar days of the filing.
7. Click “Continue for Payment Options” button to choose the method of payment.

## 6. Who is authorized to use GMRS radios under this license?

The license covers your entire family; spouse, children, grandchildren, parents, grandparents, brothers, sisters, aunts and uncles whether living with you or not.

## 7. How long does it take to receive my GMRS license?

Most GMRS licenses are issued within 24 - 48-hour time frame. You will receive an email notifying you that your GMRS license has been granted along with your new Call Sign.

## 8. What is a Call Sign and how do I use it?

Call Signs are a combination of letters and numbers that designate a licensed user to use the FCC controlled radio frequencies. Call Signs are issued from the FCC and are recorded in the official FCC Call Sign Database.

# Fiddletown Neighborhood Radio Watch Program

## 9. Does the FCC send me a copy of my license?

The FCC will no longer mail you a copy of your license. You will need to download an official copy of your license and Call Sign from the FCC.

1. Go to <https://wireless2.fcc.gov/UlsEntry/licManager/login.jsp> and log in with your FRN number and password.
2. Click the “Download Electronic Authorizations” link on the navigation bar on the left side of the License Manager home page.
3. In the “My Authorizations” box at the bottom of the page, select the call sign(s) you wish to download.
4. Add the call sign(s) to the “Authorizations to Download” box by clicking the Add button.
5. Click the Download button in the lower right-hand corner of the page.

The download will be automatically converted to a PDF file, and you can choose to Open (to print) or Save (to save to a desired folder).

## 10. Next step, obtain your GMRS Radio:

The Fiddletown Neighborhood Radio Watch group has Kenwood TK-380 hand held radios available at a discount to you. These radios are obtained from various service organizations and then refurbished and supplied with a new battery and charger system. For information on how to purchase one of these radios, send an email to [RadioWatch@fiddletowncc.org](mailto:RadioWatch@fiddletowncc.org), Use “Obtain a Radio” as the subject line along with your FRN# and Call Sign. Current cost for the Kenwood TK-380 radio along with a new battery and charger is \$ 85.00.