

Break TAGS

When communications get heavy, someone on the air may have a short solution to a problem that is taking up too much valuable air time and can't get into the net to share their solution. Here are some neat little tools to address that issue. They are called **Break Tags**. When operating under a controlled net, we are trained not to break in unless there is an emergency. The only exception to that rule is to just throw out our call sign which usually gets us put on hold, sitting there in frustration with the answer to a question that is resulting in unnecessary chatter.

There are currently seven one-word Break Tags. They are: *answer, question, info, priority, medical, emergency and your call sign*.

Instead of saying 'break' in between transmissions during a directed net you use the "Break Tag" without your call sign. They are to be used only when your traffic will be appreciated by net control and results in more efficient communications. They are to be used wisely, as net control is directed to stop and turn over the net to the breaker. The message that follows a break should be as short as possible. This method takes very little training. It's use is contagious and comes very naturally.

Here are the intended uses:

Answer: To be used when you have the answer to a question currently being discussed on the air.

Question: To be used when the answer of a question can't wait, for instance when the Mayor is standing next to you and requested you to get some info using your radio.

Info: To be used when information needs to be transmitted rapidly but is not related to what is being said on the air. For instance, if something that net control needs to know about is going to happen in the next few seconds or if waiting for the end of an exchange will negate the value of the information.

Priority: To be used to report an important but non-life-threatening situation such as a fender-bender that just happened.

Medical: To be used to report a minor medical incident that affects the operator in some way, like having to leave their post for a few minutes to walk someone with a minor cut over to a med tent.

Emergency: Only to be used to report an ongoing life or property threatening or damaging incident.

Your Call Sign: An indication that you have traffic that can wait and does not require the stoppage of the ongoing exchange. This tag is an expectation to be put on hold and in queue for your transmission.