

Communicating in Chaos

**or, The Gentle Art of Playing
With Your Radio While
Following Someone Around
Without Getting Arrested
(usually)**

Have anyone shadowed before?

War stories - anybody?

What Does It Take?

- You are not the shadowee
- Be a shadow
- Keep a positive and friendly attitude
- Stick to him/her like glue!
- You are the radio partner
- Remember – **SAFETY!**

Remember shadow of BC - advised - threw off site and OES damage control

Shadows don't show. Best crew never seen - same for shadow.

All problems are shadowees - don't whine!

Ask questions very carefully.

Never lose your shadowee - w/o shadowee you are lost little lamb and have no reason to be there.

Never lose track of radio dtraffic - see above.

You have the right to refuse an assignment.

Tools

- Radio
- Supplies
- Safety equipment

At least HT, 2X spare batteries, more than rubber duckie, headset/mike

Plus if mobile, then dual-band mobile, mag-mount, cables and connectors - powerpole/cigarette/clips for power. Can use for X-band rptr.

Carry TWO pencils, plus pen as prefer. Small pad, eraser, maybe binder clips, maybe chalk.

All reasonable PPE - even if fire in middle of town in afternoon - serious shoes or boots, helmet, goggles, gloves, required gear (as fire etc) Bring jacket and rain poncho.

How Do You Shadow?

- Understand expectations
- Never ignore your shadow
- Do as you are told
- Most messages will be verbal
- Use your tactical call, but ID often
- Log everything
- You go where he/she goes, (including potty)

Intro self and try to get idea of expectations - own radio, coffee runner, commercial radio, ???

W/o shadow, you have no reason for being!

You work for the shadow - don't forget it!

Usual stuff, but no Q-signs or 10-codes.

ID often.

Log everything!

DiFi goes to ladies, you break too. Never pass on bathrooms, meals or rest.

Who Gets Shadowed?

- VIPs
- Politicians
- Sports figures
- Your boss

Likely security issues - ask before if possible. Don't argue with security.

Don't play fan to shadow - not why you're here.

Stay out of the crush if you can, but stay close as possible in any case.

You have no social or political opinions unless asked - diplomacy!

Who Gets Shadowed

(cont)

- Working Professional
- Red Cross
 - ERV
 - VIP
 - Shelter

Shadowing fire/PD/AMR - these guys are serious - stay out of way and do as told.

Might be handed commercial radio - be sure you understand how to use it.

ARC - ERV is mobile - be aware of use - food and transport.

ARC exec - probably not strain on feet, but could be at incident.

Shelter - Supply and H/W msgs - be perfectly precise! Keep eyes open. War stories?

Two Kinds of Shadow

- **Public Events**

- Parades, Sporting events, etc.

- **Emergencies**

- Death and destruction

Pub events -- Good newby assignment.

Be sure shadow knows why you're there & knows network you are in.

Fast on your feet!

Understand area to use – parade route, limits of field, etc.

Still need PPE's - rain gear, comfortable shoes, etc.

Emergencies -- Wrong time to be newbie! Send in the best.

Be fully equipped for almost anything, and experienced.

Will learn by doing, but always the most uncomfortable way

Aware of most safety issues and know they are for real. Can be situations trying to kill you.

Safety

- Dead heroes don't count.
- It's allowed to back out.
- Know your surroundings and situation.

DHDC!!!

You can back out, but do so as gracefully as possible - don't just split!

Size-up - keep your eyes open at all times.

Disasters are unpredictable - don't turn your back!