

**AGENCY USE of THE AMATEUR RADIO MESSAGE
PRECEDENCE SYSTEM
FOR THE
WINLINK 2000 EMERGENCY RADIO E-MAIL NETWORK**

November 23, 2008

Introduction:

A process for MESSAGE PRECEDENCE handling for *Internet* traffic on the Amateur Radio Winlink 2000 Radio E-mail Network System has been implemented. All messaging passing between users of the Winlink 2000 system and Internet e-mail now require message precedence headers in the subject line UNLESS the Internet e-mail address of the originator/recipient is in the user's whitelist (See Whitelist instructions.) In other words, the Message Precedence System bypasses the whitelist.

Considering that emergency e-mail to and from areas that would not otherwise have access to Internet e-mail, can become targets for an exceptional amount of traffic within short timeframes; and considering the slow nature of an HF radio link, having an ability to prioritize messages of importance that exceed a routine priority is paramount to the success of such communications. In addition, with the message precedence system in place, SPAM should be totally eliminated. This is critical when considering the size and number of unwanted e-mail now invading the Internet e-mail system and the slower speeds of radio e-mail.

Message Precedence Categories:

Precedence categories are Flash (Z), Immediate (O), Priority (P), and Routine (R). Flash and Immediate messages are reserved for urgent.

The precedence indicator is included in a Winlink message by adding one of the following to **the beginning** of the subject line in a message whether originated from Internet email or within the Winlink system.

//WL2K Z/ - Flash (for urgent message use only)
//WL2K O/ - Immediate (for urgent message use only)
//WL2K P/ - Priority
//WL2K R/ - Routine (also shortened as //wl2k.

"Reply" and "forward" messages will be treated with the same priority as the original unless the precedence indicator is changed in the subject line when replying or forwarding.

Here are some examples of acceptable subject lines using the precedence indicators:

//WL2K Z/EOC FLOODING
//WL2K O/SHELTER STATUS - FULL
//WL2K P/Food and bedding inventory request
//WL2K R/Supplies received
Re://WL2K R/Generator manual needed
FW://WL2K R/Please bring Gasoline

Unless there is some special circumstance Routing precedence (//WL2K or //WL2K R/) should be used.

Error messages:

Example of a Rejection message sent to an Internet e-mail originator who sent a message to a Winlink user without a precedence indicator in the subject:

-----Original Message-----
From: Mail Delivery System [<mailto:mailer-daemon@comcast.net>]
Sent: Sunday, November 23, 2008 9:04 AM
To: aaa9ac@comcast.net
Subject: Delivery status notification

This is an automatically generated Delivery Status Notification.
Delivery to the following recipients was aborted after 1 second(s):

* k4cjsx@winlink.org