

West Salem CERT



Get a GMRS License

If you're new to General Mobile Radio Service (GMRS) after years of using FRS (Family Radio Service) walkie-talkies – which share some of the same channels as GMRS but don't require a license unlike GMRS which does require a license – you may be asking “what's the big deal, I didn't need one before, etc.”

GMRS radios are not FRS radios. They're more powerful, with up to 50 watts for mobile units and 5 watts for most hand held and wide-band FM, and signals may travel up to 60 miles or more, especially since some GMRS radios can be programmed to use a GMRS repeater. You need a license. Regulation of the service – including the FCC's use of mobile monitoring vans and expensive citations for violators – is necessary to prevent malicious interference that could render GMRS frequencies unusable for the rest of us. FRS radios are limited to half a watt of power. A single license cost \$35, requires NO test and can be used for your immediate family members and is good for 10 years.

If you ever want to take advantage of one of the many GMRS repeaters – which greatly increase your radio's range – you must use a call sign, that is, if you want anyone else to talk to you, and not get fined by the FCC. Using your GMRS call sign shows that you're a responsible radio user, and it's the right thing to do.

Radios I Suggest

[Baofeng GMRS-9R](#) – Why? It is programmable¹ for GMRS, FRS, Weather, monitor local emergency services and monitor local amateur radio emergency stations. Can program private channels. It is waterproof. Has a full 5 watts on GMRS and limits FRS to the 2 watt maximum. Some have FM radio. Cost around \$30.

[Baofeng GMRS-9R Tactical](#) – For \$48 this setup comes with the same radio as above but with a lot of useful gear such as a tactical high gain antenna, two batteries, a microphone, and a charging station. For a few dollars more you can even get it in one of five colors.

[Baofeng UV-9R Pro](#) - For those with an Amateur radio license (and a GMRS license) this radio for \$30 is a pretty good choice. Forget the old Baofeng, this is a solidly built, waterproof very programmable radio. Not only can you have your favorite ham stations programmed in, you can also program in everything the GMRS-9R has.

[Motorola T605 Talkabout](#) – Not interested in a programmable? This is a good choice but pricy at \$120. It delivers on GMRS a full 7 watts and 2 watts on FRS. Has privacy channels as well.

There are many other choices out there but no matter what you get you need to make certain it is a true 5 watt or better radio.

¹ I will program these radios for anyone wishing to use the full functionality of the radio for CERT and Home. Takes about 5 minutes.

General Mobile Radio Service (GMRS) Filing Instructions

An FCC license is required to operate GMRS system. Licenses are issued for a ten-year term and can be renewed between 90 days prior to the expiration date and up to the actual expiration date of the license. After a license expires, an individual must request a new GMRS license. The cost of a new license is \$35. Now, before you complain, it used to be \$80.

A GMRS system licensed to a non-individual prior to July 31, 1987 is also eligible for renewal, but the licensee may not make any major modification to the system.

You may apply for a GMRS license if you are 18 years or older and not a representative of a foreign government. If you receive a license, any family member, regardless of age, can operate GMRS stations and units within the licensed system.

Per Public Notice DA 15-72, the FCC no longer mails license authorizations. If you provide an email address on your application, an official copy of your license will be automatically emailed to you after the application has been granted.

Steps to Filing an application for a new GMRS Station license in the Universal Licensing System (ULS):

1. Go to [ULS License Manager](#) and log in with your FCC Registration Number (FRN) and password. After entering your password, proceed to Step 2 below to begin filing the application.

If you do not have an FRN, you can register for one here: [FCC Registration System](#) or by clicking the “Register with the FCC” link under the Submit button on the Log In page.

NOTE: You will be prompted to register and verify a username account prior to obtaining your FRN.

If you do not know your FRN, you can search for it by entering your call sign here:

[ULS License Search](#) or by clicking the “Check your licenses” link under the submit button on the Log In page.

If you do not know the password:

- Click on the Contact Tech Support link under the Submit button on the Log In page.
- On the next page, click the link and follow the prompts for resetting the password.
- After receiving confirmation of a successful password reset, click the link for Universal Licensing System (DO NOT click the CORES Public Interface link.)
- Click the yellow ULS License Manager button to return to the Log In page.
- Enter the FRN and password and click the Submit button.

2. On the left side of the page, click the Apply for a New License link.
3. Choose “ZA – General Mobile Radio Service (GMRS)” from the radio service drop down

FCC Federal Communications Commission

License Manager

FCC > Wireless > Licensing > Online Systems > License Manager

Log In

Log in to the License Manager to view and manage your licenses and applications, apply for a new license, and perform other license and application management tasks based on your FCC Registration Number (FRN). 10-digit FRN is required.

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FCC Registration Number

Password

▶ [Forgot your password? Contact Tech Support](#)

▶ [Need an FRN? Register with the FCC](#)

▶ [Not sure if you have an FRN? Check your licenses](#) to determine if they've been assigned an FRN

▶ [Are you a certified Land Mobile frequency coordinator? Log in](#) using your coordinator login and password

▶ [Are you narrowbanding a Land Mobile license? Log in](#) using your access code

About the FCC Registration Number (FRN)

An FRN is a 10-digit number that is assigned to a business or individual registering with the FCC. This unique FRN is used to identify the registrant's business dealings with the FCC. The FCC will use the FRN to determine if all of a registrant's fees have been paid. You are encouraged to register with the Commission as soon as you expect to do business with the FCC. This way, you will be ready to access any of the electronic licensing systems without having to go through the registration process at the time you submit an application.

For more information, see [Public Notice DA 01-2452](#).

list. Easy to find as it is at the end of the list.

4. Click Continue to navigate through the application.
5. On the Summary page, review your application and click the Continue to Certify button to continue.
6. On the Certification page, sign your application by typing your name in the boxes provided and click the Submit button. (The Title box is optional.)
7. ULS will calculate the fees. Fees for online filing MUST be received within 10 calendar days of the filing.
8. Click the Continue for Payment Options button to choose the method of payment.

Further information can be found on [General Mobile Radio Service \(GMRS\) on the FCC website](#).

The GMRS license rules are found in Part 95, Subpart A of the Code of Federal Regulations. The rules are available at the [Electronic Code of Federal Regulations website](#).

You should set up each family member on your “network”– since they’re allowed – under your license, to operate your GMRS radios. You’ll want to assign a “unit number” to each family member. Your son may be unit 3 for example, and mom or dad might be unit 1 or 2, depending on who wears the pants in the family.

Here is an example of using your call sign:

A typical conversation might sound something like this:

“WABC123 Unit 3 to Unit 1”.

“WABC123 Unit 1, go ahead unit 3.” ...

“Dad, do you know where the truck keys are? Over.”

“I’ve got them with me. I’ll be back at camp in a few minutes. Over”

“Copy that, thanks, WABC123 clear”

The last person to talk would again use the callsign, with something like “WABC123 – system clear or WABC123 – all stations clear.”

You must identify with your family’s shared call sign at the beginning and end of a conversation, and every 15 minutes if it’s an extended one.