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Radio Repeater Selection

“Choose Wisely”

To get the best performance from your DNR radio, select the repeater most suited to your needs. These tips will help you make that selection.

1. Determine who you are trying to talk to
 - Radio repeaters are linked to specific region dispatch centers
 - Other field units may not be scanning your preferred repeater
 - In some cases, there is radio coverage overlap, which means more than one repeater may work.
2. Determine which repeater has the strongest signal
 - Usually, it's the physically closest repeater, but there are exceptions. Briefly transmit on the repeater channel in question. You will hear a “squelch tail” response from the repeater. If it's scratchy and noisy, that's not a good repeater choice. Try another one until you get a clean squelch tail.
3. You can also look at the Received Signal Strength Indicator icon on your radio. It's the little bar graph, like the one your mobile phone uses. The more bars you have, the better the signal is. It's not perfect, but can be useful.
4. We have modelled repeater coverage by region and included those maps on the webpage. Keep in mind that these maps are predictions; weather has a significant effect on radio system performance.

Check out this example video of the squelch tail behavior at <https://dnr.wa.gov/radio>