MCARCS *EASY MEMORY* – HOW TO USE THESE FOLDERS

Each MCARCS *Easy Memory* folder contains 2 files, a **Descriptor File** and a **Program CSV file.** Each folder is targeted to a specific need and designed to allow HAM radio users an easy way to download into their radios selected frequencies using CHIRP .CSV file format. The initial folder, "MCARCS *Easy Memory-Essential*" is a collection of ham and First Responder radio frequencies commonly used all over Mendocino County. It contains lists of all the "County Wide" repeaters and essential disaster designated simplex listings, key Lake County frequencies, critical 1st Responder frequencies (do not transmit on these) and other important radio frequencies used from within the county and adjoining areas. Future releases will offer additional MCARCS *Easy Memory* collections that will include only First Responder frequencies from fire, police, wildlife, air service, SAR and other essential responder listings. Another release will focus on surrounding counties HAM channels used in Sonoma, Humboldt, Lake, Marin, Del Norte and other counties. Yet another release focuses on North Coast ham frequencies. Other releases will come from your suggestions and there are plenty of areas to cover in future releases. The bit advantages here are simplifying the programming of radios and avoid duplication of this at times tiresome effort.

As stated, MCARCS *Easy Memory* folders consists of two files. The first is the Excel **Descriptor** file listing groups of service channels, the frequency, service area, repeater PL's, ALPHA tags and service notes. Second, each *Easy Memory* folder contains a **Program** file. As it suggests, the Program file is a pre-programed CHIRP (Home - CHIRP (danplanet.com)) Excel CSV file that is used to program your radio. That CSV file enables CHIRP to easily program many brands and types of radios with the specific frequencies listed in the *Easy Memory* Descriptor file. This process avoids the tedious manual programming steps needed for many brands of radios like Baofeng and their many aliases and works with Icom, Yaesu, Kenwood, Alinco and many others, however, it is limited only to radio models and brands supported by CHIRP. To use this format, the user sets up their radio using CHIRP .CSV procedures. They are found here under documentation on the CHIRP website: https://chirp.danplanet.com/projects/chirp/wiki/Home
Using CHIRP .CSV Files: CSV HowTo - CHIRP (danplanet.com).

Our expectation here is the user of MCARCS *Easy Memory* folders understands how to use CHIRP, how to download files from and to their radios, has the proper PC connection cable, and knows how to use and modify.CSV files to fit their particular radio and need. That is, you should know how to effectively use CHIRP before using these files. CHIRP website

has full documentation on how to use their software. Consequently, we offer no further explanation of its use or function here.

Note: Each file begins with channels "0" and "1" having identical properties to accommodate a variety of radios. Users with radios beginning with memory "1" simply need to delete channel 0 before uploading. Next, please note ALPHA tags are limited to 6-7 characters only to accommodate the maximum number of characters available to certain radios. Some radios may truncate additional characters making the tag unreadable or confusing. Users may want to change the tag to match capability of their radio. Simply edit the .CSV file. Also, with every Easy Memory file, all non-HAM frequencies are programmed not to transmit (monitor only). Adjust this if your service permissions allow use. Otherwise, it is illegal to transmit on these non-HAM frequencies. 73's and good luck!

Folder 1:

- **MCARCS** *Easy Memory*-**ESSENTIAL** – Basic Mendocino County Ham Radio and First Responder channels

    o Descriptor File: mem_essential_r1.2.xlsx
    o Program File: mem_essential_r1.2.csv

Folder 2: Under development! Send your suggestions and/or corrections.

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