SureTalk Radio.com

Your Guide to Getting a

U.S. GMRS Radio License

General Mobile Radio Service — eligibility, applying, channels and rules

A plain-language overview prepared by SureTalkRadio for our customers and friends. **Information current as of November 2026.**

Do I need a GMRS license for SureTalkRadio? No license is needed for SureTalkRadio's push-to-talk service, which runs over a prioritized, encrypted LTE cellular network (range depends on LTE coverage). A GMRS license is needed only if you want to **transmit on GMRS frequencies with a GMRS radio**. Ask us about GMRS-capable radios.

1. What is GMRS, and who is it for?

The General Mobile Radio Service (GMRS) is an FCC-licensed, short-distance two-way radio service on channels near **462 and 467 MHz**. The FCC describes it as a service "for facilitating activities of individual licensees and their family members," including volunteering to help the public during emergencies and natural disasters. GMRS radios include hand-helds, vehicle (mobile) radios, base stations and repeaters, and hand-helds may also send short text messages and GPS location data.

Families and friends use GMRS for road trips, camping, hunting, off-roading, ranch and property use, and emergency preparedness. The FCC says a typical range is **1 to 25 miles**, depending on the type of station, the terrain and whether you use a repeater.

Who can apply — and who is covered

- **Any individual 18 or older** can apply, as long as they are not a representative of a foreign government. **There is no exam.**
- New licenses are issued **only to individuals**—not to companies, clubs or other organizations.
- Your license covers **you and your immediate family**, who may operate your GMRS radios. Under the FCC rule, immediate family means your spouse, children, grandchildren, stepchildren, parents, grandparents, stepparents, brothers, sisters, aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews and in-laws.
- Anyone may use your radio **to send an emergency message**. Otherwise, friends and coworkers need their own GMRS license.
- You are responsible for how your radios are used, including by family members under 18.

2. Cost and license term

Item	Amount	Notes
New license	$35	FCC application fee, paid online when you apply. There is no separate regulatory fee for GMRS.
License term	10 years	From the date of grant or renewal.
Renewal	$35	Renewal is not free. Renew in ULS from 90 days before expiration up to the expiration date.
Address/name update	No fee	The FCC charges no fee for personal-license modifications such as a new address.

Sources: FCC Personal Service and Amateur Application Fees (fee guide effective May 23, 2025); 47 CFR §1.1102; 47 CFR §95.1705(e); FCC GMRS page.

Information current as of November 2026; FCC rules and fees can change—check fcc.gov for the latest. General information, not legal advice.

3. How to apply, step by step

Step 1 — Get an FCC Registration Number (FRN) in CORES

Go to the FCC's **CORES** login page and register an FCC username (your email address). After verifying your email, log in, choose **Register New FRN**, select **An individual**, and pick the option labeled "Individual FRN – Select for Restricted Radio Operator and all individuals conducting business with the FCC" (not the Restricted Use FRN). You will receive a 10-digit FRN.

Step 2 — File your application in ULS

Log in to the FCC **Universal Licensing System (ULS)** License Manager with your FRN and password. Click **Apply for a New License**, choose radio service **ZA – General Mobile Radio (GMRS)**, answer the questions, review the summary, then sign by typing your first and last name and click **Submit Application**.

Step 3 — Pay the $35 fee

ULS tells you the fee when you submit, and you can pay online right away through the FCC's payment system (credit/debit card or bank transfer). Pay promptly—unpaid applications are dismissed.

Step 4 — Get your call sign

The FCC says your application will appear in the ULS Application Search the **next business day** (or two business days later if filed on a weekend or federal holiday). When the license is granted, your call sign appears in the ULS License Search and the FCC emails you a link to your official license. **Do not transmit on GMRS until your license is granted** and you have your call sign.

4. Channels, power and bandwidth

GMRS has **30 channels**: 16 "main" channels and 14 "interstitial" channels. **22 of them are shared with FRS** (FRS channels 1–22); the other eight (467 MHz main channels) are GMRS-only repeater inputs. Power and bandwidth depend on the channel group and type of station:

Channel group	Frequencies (MHz)	FRS ch.	Who may transmit	GMRS max. power	Bandwidth
462 MHz main (8)	462.5500, .5750, .6000, .6250, .6500, .6750, .7000, .7250	15–22	Hand-held, mobile, base, fixed and repeater stations	50 W output (mobile, base, repeater); 15 W (fixed)	20 kHz (wide)
462 MHz interstitial (7)	462.5625, .5875, .6125, .6375, .6625, .6875, .7125	1–7	Hand-held, mobile and base stations	5 W ERP	20 kHz (wide)
467 MHz interstitial (7)	467.5625, .5875, .6125, .6375, .6625, .6875, .7125	8–14	Hand-held radios only	0.5 W ERP	12.5 kHz (narrow)
467 MHz main (8)	467.5500, .5750, .6000, .6250, .6500, .6750, .7000, .7250	—	Hand-held, mobile, control and fixed stations—only through a repeater (or brief tests)	50 W output (mobile); 15 W (fixed)	20 kHz (wide)

Sources: 47 CFR §95.1763 (channels), §95.1767 (power), §95.1773 (bandwidth), §95.563 and §95.567 (FRS). ERP = effective radiated power.

- **FRS radios** on the same channels are limited to 2 W ERP on channels 1–7 and 15–22, 0.5 W ERP on channels 8–14, and 12.5 kHz bandwidth.
- **Short text and location data** from GMRS hand-helds is allowed on the 462 MHz main and interstitial channels and the 467 MHz interstitial channels—not on the 467 MHz main (repeater input) channels.
- **Radios must be FCC-certified for GMRS**, and since 2019 a radio cannot be sold as both FRS and GMRS.

5. Using repeaters

A repeater, usually on a hilltop or tall building, receives on a 467 MHz main channel and retransmits on the matching 462 MHz main channel, which can greatly extend range. To use one, your radio needs a repeater (duplex) setting and the repeater's access tone.

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- **Get the owner's permission.** Each repeater is run under its owner's license, and the owner decides who may use it—open to anyone or limited to specific people.
- **Find repeaters** near you with the **myGMRS.com** repeater directory (search by location; many owners accept access requests there).
- GMRS repeaters may **not be linked over the internet** or other networks to carry conversations; network connections are allowed only for remote control.

6. On-the-air rules that matter

Identify your station

Say your **FCC call sign** (in English, or Morse code) **at the end of a transmission or series of transmissions**, and **at least every 15 minutes** during a conversation that lasts longer than 15 minutes. You may add a unit number after the call sign (for example, "[your call sign] unit 2").

Personal and family use — not a business radio

GMRS licenses go only to individuals, and only you and your immediate family may operate under your license. A company cannot hold a new GMRS license, and employees cannot operate under an owner's personal license. For work crews and business teams, ask us about license-free options such as SureTalkRadio's LTE push-to-talk service.

What GMRS may not be used for

- Advertising or offering goods or services for sale; messages for hire; political campaign advertising.
- Anything illegal; false or deceptive messages; obscene, profane or indecent language; intentionally interfering with others.
- Coded messages or hidden meanings ("10-codes" are allowed); music, sound effects or entertainment; public-address systems.
- Continuous transmissions (except for immediate safety of life or property); "Mayday" or other distress signals unless you are truly in danger on a vehicle, ship or aircraft.
- Connecting to the telephone network; talking to amateur (ham), unauthorized or foreign stations except in an emergency.

Emergencies always come first: any GMRS channel may be used for emergency communications or to help travelers, and all users must give emergency traffic priority.

Sources: 47 CFR §95.1731 (permitted uses), §95.1733 and §95.333 (prohibited uses), §95.1749 (network connection), §95.1751 (station identification), §95.1705 (eligibility and operators).

7. Renewing and keeping your license current

- **Renew** in ULS: log in, open your license and choose **Renew** under "Work on this License." Renewal is allowed from 90 days before the expiration date up to the expiration date, and costs $35.
- **If your GMRS license expires,** the FCC says you must apply for a new license (and pay the new-license fee).
- **Moving or new email?** Update your license in ULS (choose **Update** under "Work on this License"). Changing your address in CORES does **not** update your license record.

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GMRS vs. FRS vs. ham radio

	GMRS	FRS	Amateur (ham)
License needed?	Yes — individual license	No (licensed by rule)	Yes — individual license
Exam?	No	No	Yes (Technician to start)
FCC fee / term	$35; 10 years	None	$35; 10 years
Who may operate	Licensee and immediate family	Anyone (except foreign government reps)	Only the licensed operator
Typical radios / power	Hand-helds, mobiles, bases, repeaters; up to 50 W on main channels	Hand-helds only; 0.5–2 W	Wide range of bands, modes and power
Business use?	No — personal/family license	Personal or business use allowed	No — non-commercial only

Your path to a GMRS license in 6 steps

1. **Check eligibility.** You must be 18 or older. No exam is required.
2. **Get your FRN.** Create an FCC username and register an individual FRN in CORES.
3. **Apply in ULS.** Choose “Apply for a New License” and radio service ZA – General Mobile Radio (GMRS).
4. **Pay $35.** Pay online right after you submit your application.
5. **Get your call sign.** Watch for the FCC email and look up your call sign in ULS. Don’t transmit until it’s granted.
6. **Get on the air.** Identify with your call sign, follow the channel and power rules, and renew within 90 days before your license expires in 10 years.

Frequently asked questions

Can my kids use it?

Yes. Children, stepchildren and grandchildren are immediate family under the FCC rule, so they may operate under your license. The license holder is responsible for their use.

Can my friends use my radios?

Only to send an emergency message. Otherwise, friends (and their families) need their own GMRS license.

Can I use GMRS for my business?

No. New GMRS licenses are issued only to individuals, and only the licensee and immediate family may operate. Employees can’t be covered. Ask us about license-free LTE push-to-talk for your team.

Do I need a license for FRS radios?

No. FRS is licensed by rule. But a radio that exceeds FRS limits or can transmit on the 467 MHz main channels is a GMRS radio and needs a GMRS license.

Can I talk to FRS users?

Yes. GMRS stations may communicate with FRS radios on the shared channels.

Is there a test, and do I need a ham license?

No test for GMRS. GMRS and ham radio are separate licenses with separate fees.

How long is my license good for?

10 years. Renew in ULS within 90 days before it expires.

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Do I need a license for SureTalkRadio?

No. SureTalkRadio's LTE push-to-talk service needs no license. A GMRS license is needed only to transmit on GMRS frequencies with a GMRS radio.

Helpful links

FCC – General Mobile Radio Service (GMRS)
https://www.fcc.gov/wireless/bureau-divisions/mobility-division/general-mobile-radio-service-gmrs

FCC – Family Radio Service (FRS)
https://www.fcc.gov/wireless/bureau-divisions/mobility-division/family-radio-service-frs

FCC – Personal and amateur license fees
https://www.fcc.gov/personal-service-and-amateur-application-fees

GMRS rules – 47 CFR Part 95, Subpart E
https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-47/chapter-I/subchapter-D/part-95/subpart-E

FCC CORES – username and FRN login
https://apps.fcc.gov/cores/userLogin.do

FCC CORES help – Register a new FRN
https://apps.fcc.gov/cores/html/Register_New_FRN.htm

FCC ULS – apply, renew, update, search
https://www.fcc.gov/uls

FCC – Applying for a new license in ULS
https://www.fcc.gov/wireless/support/knowledge-base/universal-licensing-system-uls-resources/applying-new-license

FCC ULS – License search
https://wireless2.fcc.gov/UlsApp/UlsSearch/searchLicense.jsp

myGMRS.com – Repeater directory
https://mygmrs.com/repeaters

Questions about radios for your family or team? We're happy to help.

SureTalkRadio • 801-803-5111 • sales@suretalkradio.com • suretalkradio.com

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