

**STM Report**  
**Wisconsin Section**  
**November 2025**  
*Book Traffic*

FAQ # 292 Book 'em, Dan-O? What about "book" messages? Are they long? Are they bound? Can you judge them by their cover?

Book messages are sent, as they say, *by the book*. They meet the same criteria as individual radiograms. They just have some identical parts. When sending book traffic, the sender sends the identical or common parts first and then follows with the individual message numbers and varied parts for each message. It's more efficient. For example, identical texts might be sent to a number of Emergency Coordinators and since each message has a unique number the originator can keep track of individual responses.

In the preamble, message numbers should contain only figures, no punctuation, and no leading zeros. Filing time on routine messages may not be important, so it might be omitted. The date is never skipped. A complete address and current phone number is essential. The text should have a minimum of variations. Variable parts should be grouped so they could be sent as a single group. When sending a book, the text's variable parts can be sent as "blank" with the common parts and then filled in for each individual message in the book.

We test the NTS, and our traffic handling skills, with book messages for several reasons. We want to be sure the system is working. We want the system to hold up under heavy use. We know that disaster communication – especially welfare traffic – is sometimes sent as book traffic. So we practice.

Hams from the NTS and ARES/RACES groups need the same abilities and traffic skills so they understand each other when they assist the public in times of emergency. As usual, training will pay off. You can make book on it. 73 – K9LGU/STM - WI