If you received a satellite communication system

Please **READ** this reference to understand the risks of using this equipment **BEFORE** operating it. This page cover introductory advice for satellite phones and internet links

Satellite communications are slow and expensive	- Avoid using the device for long periods of time. - For Internet Links, avoid activities that require a lot of speed or bandwidth. - Be mindful of the service's billing. - Prefer to use more traditional technologies to make calls/connect to the internet if available.
Satellite communication devices can be geolocated	- Please only turn on satellite phones to make short calls, ideally from different places and away from home, work, etc. - Please only turn on the device for short periods of time. For a phone, only to make short calls. Keep in mind that some satellite devices take several minutes to set up and get connected. - Operate the device ideally from different places and away from home, work, etc. - Avoid multiple parties transmitting from the same location. Especially at different times. - For Internet links, locate the device as far from your exact location as possible, one strategy is to connect a wireless router to the link to receive Wi-Fi signal at a distance, or use cables and switches to gain space between the link and you. - Satellite devices with omnidirectional antennas are way easier to locate. Be careful.
Satellite communications might be intercepted and jammed	- Treat communication transmitted by satellite as untrusted and easily compromised, especially phone calls. - If possible, try to add extra layers of security, for instance, when using devices with internet data try to use applications and platforms that use encryption, like Signal or WhatsApp. - Be prepared for the connection to be affected, this can be done at the satellite level (more complicated), or at the local terrain level (easier)
Be mindful of the physical environment	- Satellite devices use electricity as any other electronic equipment, prepare backup power solutions like power banks, solar chargers, generators, etc., and manage them efficiently. - The terrain also affects the reception quality, you will need to operate the device with a line of sight to the sky and avoid buildings, mountains, etc. that might block the signal. - Look for danger in the surroundings when operating the equipment. Avoid using it from a location that cannot be easily evacuated in case of an emergency or attack. - You can put camouflage (like cardboard, paper, cloth, etc.) on top of satellite antennas to conceal them and see if the service is good enough to operate without issues. Be mindful of the angle the antenna should point to the open sky, this will vary on the type of device. - Be mindful of your risks if carrying a satellite device with you at checkpoints, during raids, etc. One strategy might be storing the device in fixed locations, considering the advice above of not operating it from these places. - Using Bluetooth headsets might help you to gain some extra distance from satellite phones and raise less suspiciousness from carrying an unusual device. - Some devices cannot operate outside of specific temperatures, read the manual of your device to make sure that for instance, it won't break below 0 Celsius. Make sure other devices, like routers, are always dry.

As much as you can, update yourself on the technologies you are using, so in case there is any new key development (like a security flaw, documented vulnerability, etc.), you can stop using the device or take any necessary actions to protect yourself and your communications.

For more information, you can consult https://satellitesafety.openinternetproject.org/