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IF A RADIO CAN PUT OUT 100 WATTS IN CW PHONE OR DIGITAL MODES THE S METER ON THE RECEIVING END WILL SEE VIRTUALLY NO DIFFERENCE BUT THE OPERATOR TRYING TO COPY CW OR PHONE OR DIGITAL MAY SEE A BIG DIFFERENCE IT IS ALL ABOUT SIGNAL TO NOISE RATIO IF YOU ARE TALKING TO SOMEONE WHERE THERE ARE ONLY TWO OF YOU IN THE ROOM AND THERE IS LITTLE EXTRANEOUS SOUND YOUR ABILITY TO UNDERSTAND IS HIGH