

This guideline provides Department procedures for radio communication.

**COMMUNICATION SYSTEM INFORMATION:**

The San Diego County Fire Mutual Aid Operational Plan (Annex B) and the San Diego County Regional Communications System (RCS) Field Reference Guide both describe the general communication plan and frequency or talkgroup allocations for most departments within San Diego County and should be referred to for additional information.

**RADIO DESIGNATORS**

The use of radio designators provides a method for concise communications to occur between two or more resources. It is important that all North Zone personnel are extremely familiar with the designator system so that they are able to communicate efficiently and effectively.

The North Zone uses a four-digit radio designator for each unit. The first two digits indicate the agency, the third digit indicates the resource kind, and the fourth digit indicates the station or assignment.

When using a designator within the North Zone, the resource kind (Engine, Truck, Medic, Chief, etc.) should precede the 4-digit number.

***Example:*** "Truck 1471, Engine 1211, set up aerial operations on the 'A' side of the structure."

When using a designator outside of the North Zone or when resources from out of the North Zone are utilized on a North Zone Incident, the agency name should precede the resource kind and 4-digit designator.

***Example:*** "CDF Engine 3381, Escondido Engine 1311, start a hose lay on the left flank of the fire."

**AGENCY IDENTIFIERS:**

10-Deer Springs	22-Carlsbad
11-North County Fire	23-Encinitas
12-Vista	24-Solana Beach
13-Escondido	25-Del Mar
14-San Marcos	26-Rancho
15-Rainbow	27-Camp Pendleton
20-San Onofre GS	28-Elfin Forest
21-Oceanside	

**RESOURCE IDENTIFIER:**

Chief Officers:	01-09 (Chief 2602)
Engine:	10-29 (E1411)
Reserve Engine:	30-39

Prevention/Staff:	40-49 (P2640, P1342)
Water Tender:	50-59
Brush:	60-69
Truck:	70-79 (T1371)
Utility/Support:	80-99 (Utility 1285)
Ambulances	90-99 (BLS 1399, Medic Amb1391, Rescue Ambulance 1496)

Note: OES resources will use OES with engine # (i.e. OES 306).

### **PORTABLE RADIOS:**

Three portables have been issued to each apparatus to increase personnel safety, operational efficiency, and provide more flexibility to fire personnel. When personnel are working apart from each other and need to be contacted individually, refer to the examples listed below.

— 1411P1	or	1411A	“1411 Captain”
— 1411P2	or	1411B	“1411 Engineer”
— 1411P3	or	1411C	“1411 Firefighter”

In the event that a company must use a portable radio that is not normally assigned to it, it is important to notify Dispatch of the change. Dispatch will need to complete an "alias change". This will identify the replacement portable as belonging to the affected company by its transmitted identification. Should this change not take place, it would negatively impact an "Emergency Traffic" situation by transmitting the identification of a radio from a unit that is not assigned to the incident.

### **FIRE SERVICE COMMUNICATIONS**

The following talkgroups and conventional channels are dedicated to fire service operations. (A system number and talkgroup letter identifies trunked talkgroups and conventional channels. The phonetic identifier is always used when pronouncing the talkgroup name. For example, talkgroup "1-A" is pronounced "One Alpha.")

The communications needs for any incident will range from simple to complex. A larger incident, such as a structure fire, wildland fire or mass casualty incident may need more talkgroups and/or conventional channels to efficiently handle the communications needs.

The following protocol is designed to improve incident operations and safety through a standardized approach to organizing communications for day-to-day and expanded incidents.

**DISPATCH:**

The dispatch talkgroup is used to notify stations and units of calls for service and coordinate the day-to-day activities of each agency. All alarms shall routinely be dispatched and announced on the dispatch talkgroup. Once dispatched, field unit(s) will communicate with dispatch and/or other units on the assigned tactical talkgroup/channel.

This talkgroup is also used to conduct routine traffic between Dispatch and field units not assigned to any incident. For field resources, any contact with Dispatch when not assigned to an incident (status change, requests, inquiries, etc.) shall be the Dispatch Agencies Talkgroup. *NO UNIT-TO-UNIT OR UNIT-TO-STATION CONTACT IS PERMITTED ON THIS TALKGROUP.*

	<u>VERBAL</u>	<u>DISPLAY</u>
<b>Dispatch Channel:</b>	“NorthComm”	RF1 RHO DISP (1A)
	“Escondido Fire”	ESC DISP

**COMMAND TALKGROUPS**

There is typically a significant volume of communication between the incident commander and the dispatch center during multi-alarm or major incidents. Some of these communications may be to request more resources, further clarify a location, update ETA's or make a report on conditions.

These communications, while essential to the operation, can interfere with fire ground and emergency traffic. *When an incident requires a significant amount of fireground communications; a clear channel for high-risk operations; command staff; and/or lengthy communications with the dispatch center, the Incident Commander may request a command talkgroup.*

**AGENCY-SPECIFIC TACTICAL TALKGROUPS:**

The agency specific tactical talkgroups/channels is used for tactical communications between field units and the dispatch center or between field units and other field units.

These tactical talkgroups are designated for day-to-day routine traffic. Agency specific assignments using agency specific talkgroups are made by the local dispatch center and agency specific tactical talkgroups will not normally be assigned to incidents. The use of these talkgroups shall comply with FCC requirements.

On larger incidents, separate and unique tactical talkgroups and/or conventional channels shall be established for specific functions.

**NORTH COUNTY DISPATCH AGENCY SPECIFIC-TACTICAL AREAS**

To efficiently manage radio talkgroup use, the JPA is divided into two distinct areas of tactical operation—East and West.

*EAST TACTICAL AREA AGENCIES:* San Marcos, North County, and Vista

*WEST TACTICAL AREA AGENCIES:* Carlsbad, Del Mar, Elfin Forest/Harmony Grove, Encinitas, Oceanside, Rancho Santa Fe and Solana Beach.

*ESCONDIDO TACTICAL AREA:* Escondido

*For all day-to-day radio traffic, the following agency-specific tactical talkgroups will be assigned and **command channels** upon request of the IC:*

***NCDJPA West Tactical Area:***

	<b><u>VERBAL</u></b>	<b><u>DISPLAY</u></b>
Tactical Talkgroup:	Rancho Tac1 “One Charlie”	RF1 RHO TC1 (1C)
Command Talkgroup:	Rancho Command 1 “One Bravo”	RF1 RHO CM1(1B)

***NCDJPA East Tactical Area:***

Tactical Talkgroup:	Rancho Tac2 “One India”	RF1 RHO TC2 (1I)
Command Talkgroup:	Rancho Command 2 “One Hotel”	RF1 RHO CM2 (1H)

**ESC**

Tactical Talkgroup:	Escondido Tac 1 “Two Charlie”	ESC TAC1(2C)
Command Talkgroup:	Escondido Command 1 “Two Bravo”	ESC CMD1(2B)

**MCP**

Primary Tactical Talkgroup/Channels:	UHF
Primary Command Talkgroup/Channel:	UHF

**ZONE TALKGROUP ASSIGNMENTS**

For all Structure Fires and Vegetation Fires the following talkgroups will be assigned. They are located in the North Mutual Aid Zone.

***NCDJPA West Tactical Area:***

	<b><u>VERBAL</u></b>	<b><u>DISPLAY</u></b>
Tactical Talkgroup:	Primary-North Tac 1 "One Echo" Alternate-North Tac 2 "One November"	NMA NTC1(1E) NMA NTC2(1N)
Command Talkgroup:	North Command 1 "One Delta"	NMA NCM1(1D)
Tactical Talkgroup:	Secondary-North Tac 3 "One Golf" Alternate-North Tac 4 "Two Mike"	NMA NTC3(1G) NMA NTC4 (2M)
Command Talkgroup:	Secodary-North Command 2 "One Foxtrot"	NMA NCM2(1F)

***NCDJPA East Tactical Area:***

	<b><u>VERBAL</u></b>	<b><u>DISPLAY</u></b>
Tactical Talkgroup:	Primary-North Tac 7 "One Kilo" Alternate-North Tac 8 "Two November"	NMA NTC7(1K) NMA NTC8 (2N)
Command Talkgroup:	Primary-North Command 4 "One Juliet"	NMA NCM4(1J)
Tactical Talkgroup:	Secondary-North Tac 9 "One Mike" Alternate-North Tac 10 "Two Oscar"	NMANTC9(1M) NMA NTC10 (2O)
Command Talkgroup:	Secondary-North Command 5 "One Lima"	NMA NCM5(1L)

***ESCONDIDO***

Tactical Talkgroup:	Primary-ESC-Tac 5 "Two Echo" Alternate-ESC-Tac 6 "Two Hotel"	NMA NTAC5(2E) NMA NTAC6(2H)
Command Talkgroup:	Primary-North Command 3 "Two Delta"	NMA CMD3(2D)
Tactical Talkgroup:	Secondary-ESC-Tac 2 "Two Golf" Alternate-ESC-Tac 3 "Two India"	ESC TAC2 (2G) ESC TAC3 (2I)
Command Talkgroup:	Secondary-ESC-Command 2 "Two Foxtrot"	ESC CMD2 (2F)

***CAMP PENDELTON***

Tactical Talkgroup/Channel:	(as directed)
Command Talkgroup/Channels:	(as directed)

With the transfer of the last unit on an incident to an available status, this shall signal the release of the assigned command and tactical talkgroups.

Dispatchers may patch one radio resource to another for ease of operation during periods of minimal staffing. During periods of added staffing in Dispatch, attempts may be made to assign separate Commands to unlike incidents (i.e. Medical Aid, Smoke Investigation, etc.).

Personnel are reminded that some automatic and mutual aid incidents will require the use of the VHF radio for incident communications.

### **HAILING OR CALLING ANOTHER USER:**

When attempting to contact a North Zone resource, go to the Agency Dispatch talkgroup and request they make contact with a specific unit and have them switch to the appropriate Tactical talkgroup.

When attempting to contact a resource outside the North Zone, utilize "County Call" (COCL). This talkgroup is located in the CMA Zone. Once contact is made with the desired unit, carry out the communication on an agreed upon tactical talkgroup (COTAC 1, 2, 3, or 4). *Note: COUNTY CALL is a hailing talkgroup only. International Call (ICALL) is utilized as a national and international hailing talkgroup.*

### **REPEATED/NON-REPEATED TALKGROUPS:**

Most talkgroups in the RCS are repeated. This means that all others can hear any unit. An exception to this would be those direct-only talkgroups in the CNV zone, such as CARS 1, 2, 3, and 4. These are direct from one radio to another, within line-of-sight, never reaching a repeater. These are ideal for close operations, which have a great deal of tactical conversations. Their use during emergency operations must be carefully evaluated to assure communication will not be lost due to "line of sight" problems. This could compromise safety. In addition, these talkgroups are located away from the Department's normal incident zones, so their use on incidents should be considered as it relates to switching between zones and talkgroups.

### **ASSIGNING COMMAND AND TACTICAL CHANNELS:**

The following rules of radio channel use are based on, and found in both the National Incident Management System (NIMS) and San Diego County Operational Area Plan Annexes 'B' and 'I'. The rules are compliant with those documents and will be relied on for assigning and using Command and Tactical Talkgroups.<sup>1</sup>

The foundation for this plan is a result of unified direction of the San Diego North Zone Fire Chiefs. The main tenets of the plan are:

1. Assure that communication plan/guideline is ICS compliant.

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<sup>1</sup> SD North Zone Operations Chiefs: 5/9/07

2. The plan should not cause difficulty for personnel within the hazard zone. (ex.) Personnel should not have to switch between Command and TAC talkgroups while in the hazard zone.
3. Incident Commanders should be judicial in their ICS development; it should reflect appropriate management of resources.
4. All incidents will initially be assigned only one (1) frequency. If the IC determines additional frequencies are needed, they may be requested from the Communications Center.

*General Information*

A high percentage of incidents will be run and managed on the Tactical Net Talkgroup, as such the Communications Center will assign one Tactical Channel to all first alarm incidents. The assignment of additional talkgroups will be dependent upon the level of incident organization established by the Incident Commander.

***For small incidents:***

- The initial assigned Tactical Net will be used to link the Incident Commander with the Communications Center.
- The assigned Tactical Net will also be used to link the Incident Commander with the single resources assigned to the incident.

A high percentage of incidents will be run and managed on the Tactical Net Talkgroup. As such, terminology such as “Engine 2611, you will be taking care of interior operations and primary search, you will be referred to as “Interior”. This does not mean that the IC has formed a division or group. The Incident commander may choose to use unit numbers. It is imperative the personnel understand their assignment and who they are working for at the incident. If there is any confusion the officer of the resource must clarify with the incident commander before accepting the assignment.

***For Complex incidents:***

- The Incident Commander may consider initiating the process of establishing a Command Net, based upon the command and control needs of the incident,
- It will be imperative that this change is made only when the Division/Group Supervisor positions and above are in a position where the change can be effectively communicated and assured over the radio and/or face to face.
- At no time should tactical resources working in the hazard zone be required to change radio talkgroups.

- Company Officers transitioning from an initial attack, single-resource mode into that of a Division-Group Supervisor will be best suited to advise the Incident Commander regarding the best time to conduct the actual change.

***Upon the establishment of a Command Net:***

- The Command Net will be used to link the Incident Command with the Communications Center, Command and General Staff positions including Branch Directors, and Division/Group Supervisors. Personnel assigned to incident management positions from the Incident Commander down to, and including Division/Group Supervisors will operate on the command talkgroup.
- The Incident Commander will communicate with the Communications Center for the remaining duration of the incident on the command talkgroup.
- The Incident Commander will communicate with various positions of the Command and General Staff, down to and including Division/Group Supervisors on the command talkgroup.<sup>1</sup>
- Resources and personnel assigned to a Division or Group, and/or those resources operating as single resources will communicate to their immediate supervisor on the assigned tactical channel. This includes those resources working directly for the Incident Commander.

It is important to remember the above use is based upon the existence of Divisions and/or Groups on an incident. This means that when the Incident Commander is directly managing single resources, any communications with those resources would occur on the Tactical channel. The Incident Commander would still communicate with the Communications Center for the duration of the incident on the command talkgroup.

For response related traffic, all users must monitor the assigned channels to maintain effective communications and receive updates from the Communications Center as well as other responding resources while en route to an incident.

**Additional Tactical/Support Talkgroups:**

The IC can request an additional Tactical Talkgroup. This talkgroup can be utilized by RIC (Rapid Intervention Crew), Hazardous Material Entry Teams or other groups/units as necessary.

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Should a request for an additional tactical talkgroup(s) be received by Dispatch, they shall be assigned in the following manner:

Assign a tactical talkgroup in the same radio zone that is currently unassigned. If no tactical channels are available, Dispatch will contact the Sheriff's Communication Center and request a County TAC or an ICS talkgroup (CMA zone).

### **EMERGENCY TRAFFIC:**

The term "Emergency Traffic" will be utilized by any unit encountering an immediately perilous situation at any emergency incident and will receive the highest priority from Dispatch, Command, and all operating field units. When a unit has an emergency message, they will establish contact with Dispatch on the frequency that has been assigned to the incident. For example:

"North Comm, Engine 1411 Emergency Traffic"  
"Escondido Fire, Engine 1312 Emergency Traffic"

Dispatch will repeat the message one time. If Dispatch does not acknowledge "Emergency Traffic", the field unit will contact the Incident Commander with the emergency message. **THE AIR ABSOLUTELY BELONGS TO ANY UNIT GIVING THE "EMERGENCY TRAFFIC" CALL.** The use of "Emergency Traffic" should be initiated only when the hazard appears to be imminent.

Any member has the authority to utilize the "Emergency Traffic" announcement when it is felt that an imminent danger to personnel exists, however, considerable discretion should be applied to its use. ("Emergency Traffic" announcements may become ineffective if over used.)

For example, when an imminent hazard has been realized, the emergency traffic process should be initiated [**Refer to Fire Ground Accountability System (EOM 601.01)**]. The initiator should describe the apparent hazard and order a positive response, i.e., evacuate a particular area or section according to the scope of the hazard. If possible, the Division/Group Supervisor of those areas to be evacuated should request an acknowledgement of the "Emergency Traffic" broadcast from those company members to be evacuated.

Upon receipt of the emergency traffic order, Company Officers shall assemble their personnel and promptly exit to a safe location where the Company Officer will again account for all company members. Shortly after the evacuation order, the Division/Group Supervisor shall begin the process of accounting for all evacuated personnel. When all affected companies and company members are accounted for, the evacuation process is complete.

### **EMERGENCY BUTTON ACTIVATION:**

The 800 MHz portable radios are equipped with an emergency button. This button is used to

transmit coded data to Agencies Dispatch that indicates that a life-threatening emergency is occurring. It would typically be activated when the user is incapacitated or unable to verbally transmit a message of an emergency nature. This activation will alert the Agencies Dispatch Center as well as other radios on the same talkgroup. The alert at Agencies Dispatch will indicate the radio/user I.D. that transmitted the emergency. Agencies Dispatch will contact the user or the assigned Incident Commander on a working incident to determine the situation. This system will integrate into the Department's fireground accountability system. Personnel should refer to emergency traffic guidelines outlined in this section and in **Fireground Safety (EOM 601.00)** for additional information.

Note: When activated, signal locks in agency Dispatch.

### **PRIORITY TRAFFIC:**

The term "Priority Traffic" will be utilized by any unit encountering an emergency situation not perilous to personnel and will receive high priority from North Comm and other units. When a unit has a critical message, they will establish contact with North Comm in one of two manners:

- If they are assigned to an incident, the priority traffic transmission should be on the incident assigned Tactical talkgroup.
- If they are not assigned to an incident, the priority traffic transmission should be on their dispatch talkgroup.

Example:

"North Comm, Engine 1411 with Priority Traffic"  
"Escondido Fire, Engine 1312 with Priority Traffic"

Dispatch will acknowledge the unit with "Priority Traffic". The unit will then transmit the "Priority Traffic". North Comm will acknowledge all "Priority Traffic" radio transmissions. "Priority Traffic" should not be confused with "Emergency Traffic".

### **"COVER NOW"**

If a crew finds themselves in a situation on an incident where their safety is being threatened by member of the public, they can initiate immediate law enforcement assistance by using the "Cover Now" request to North Comm. This request shall be made using the following statement, where "address" is the crew's location.

"North Comm, E2612 "COVER NOW" at (Address)  
"Escondido, E1312 "COVER NOW" at (Address)

### **ASSIGNMENT OF COMMAND NAME:**

The Incident Commander shall name all incidents where it is necessary to establish command.

The name will normally be the street name, business name or a nearby landmark followed by the term Incident Command (I.C.) (**EOM 200.00**). The Incident Commander will assume the name of the Incident.

"North Comm, Engine 1411 on scene establishing University Incident Command"

"North Comm copies, Engine 1411 on scene establishing University Incident Command"

"Escondido Fire, Engine 1312 on scene establishing University Incident Command"

"Escondido Fire copies, Engine 1312 on scene establishing University Incident Command"

**CLEAR TEXT:**

Clear Text shall be used at all times.

**SCENE COMMUNICATIONS:**

First arriving unit(s) shall advise dispatch that they are "On Scene" and give a brief initial report of conditions (**EOM 200.00**). If appropriate, Incident Command will be established.

**BENCHMARKS:**

Benchmarks are used to identify completion of major incident objectives and, when received by I.C., will be transmitted to the dispatch center (**EOM 301.00**) by the Incident Commander. The following benchmarks are examples of terminology that should be common to all departments.

- "All Clear" - Primary search has been completed.
- "Under Control" - Fire is controlled or contained.
- "Loss Stopped" - Property Conservation
- Incident Clock

**IN-ZONE RESPONSE TO OTHER ZONE AGENCY:**

When responding to another jurisdiction, communicate to NorthComm that you are responding as normal. Contact the jurisdiction you are responding to on the assigned frequency and advise them you are responding. Utilize this or another designated frequency to contact the Incident Commander, if required. Upon release, advise the other jurisdiction's dispatch center that you are returning. Return to the "Home" Dispatch frequency and advise you are returning and available.

An alternate 800 MHz talkgroup could be chosen and made known to personnel for assignments. Any direct-mode talkgroup in the CNV zone will work (CARS1, 2, 3, and 4 and

ITAC1, 2, 3, and 4).

All units responding to incidents operating on a VHF frequency such as CAL Fire, USFS or Camp Pendleton Fire Department must ensure that the "Private Lines" (PL) / "Channel Guard" (CG) are disabled on their radio.

Enroute the incident, the Command, Tactical and Air to Ground frequencies shall be selected and entered into a scan list on both the mobile and all portable radios.

**COMMONLY USED NORTH ZONE TALKGROUPS:**

RF1 RHODISP     *"NorthComm"*                             ESC DISP     "Escondido Fire"

Future (1A)

NCDJPA- Agency Dispatch Talkgroup, Current RF1 RHODISP/Future "One Alpha" (1A)  
ESCONDIDO-Agency Dispatch Talkgroup, Current ESC DISP/Future "Two Alpha" (2A)

RF1 RHO CMDI     *"Rancho Command 1"*             ESC-Command 1

The Incident Commander and Dispatch shall use this frequency to pass information and requests if the Incident Commander requests a Command Talkgroup, otherwise all communications will occur on the assigned Primary Tactical Talkgroup. It may also be used by the Incident Commander to communicate with Division/Group Supervisors and members of the Command and General Staff if the Incident Commander establish the need for a Command Talkgroup.

NCDJPA-Primary West Command Talkgroup, Current RF1 RHO CMD1/Future (1B)  
ESCONDIDO-Primary Command Talkgroup, Current ESC-Command 1/Future (2C)

RF1 RHO TAC1     *"Rancho Tac 1"*                             ESC-Tac 1

This frequency shall be used by those assigned to the incident, not in a command capacity, to communicate day-to-day tactical operations.

NCDJPA- Primary West Tactical Talkgroup, Current RF1 RHO TAC 1/Future (1C)  
ESCONDIDO-Primary Tactical Talkgroup, Current ESC-Command 1/Future (2C)  
RF1 RHO CM2     *"Rancho Command 2"*             ESC-Command 1

Same function as Rancho Command 1. This frequency is utilized for the East Primary Command Talkgroup

NCDJPA Primary East Command Talkgroup, Current RH1 RHO CMD2/Future (1H)

RF1 RHO TAC2     *"Rancho Tac 2"*                             ESC-TAC 2

Same function as Rancho Tac 1. This frequency is utilized for the Primary East Tactical Talkgroup. This frequency shall be used by those assigned to the incident, not in a command capacity, to communicate day-to-day tactical operations.

### **AGENCY-SPECIFIC TACS**

These tactical talkgroups are designed to be utilized for day-to-day routine traffic. Agency Tacs will not normally be assigned to incidents.

RF1 M/AIR                    *"Med Air"*                    ESC M/AIR

Used to hail an air ambulance. Requests for an air ambulance shall be made through Dispatch via the assigned command channel. Once the air ambulance is in the general area of the incident, it can be hailed on this talkgroup.

NMA NTAC11                *"North Tac Eleven" Future Nomenclature for this Talkgroup (2K)*

Is designated by Zone 1 as a "Travel Frequency" for mutual aid responses until arrival at a rendezvous point. At such time, a permanent travel frequency shall be established or if the rendezvous point is at an incident, units shall program the Communication Plan frequencies as directed.

RF1 F/AIR                    *"Fire Air"*                    ESC F/AIR

The intended use of this talkgroup is to contact and coordinate with air attack coordinators and resources involved in a fire incident. CDF staffed, San Diego County-owned helicopters (Copter's 10 and 12), and San Diego City Copter 1 are equipped with 800MHz radios.

In the event of a fire occurring on L.R.A. lands, the primary air-ground frequency when using only these helicopters will be "Fire Air". For L.R.A. fires utilizing any other agency helicopters, or any incident using fixed-wing resources, the air-ground frequency will be "CDF Air-Ground". State and federal contract fixed wing aircraft do not have 800 MHz capabilities. **For all fires occurring on S.R.A. lands, the air-ground frequency will be "CDF Air-Ground".**

RF1 L/AIR                    *"Law Air"*

Used to hail law enforcement air resources. ASTREA can be hailed on this frequency. Requests for ASTREA shall be placed with Rancho Dispatch. For information on other Law Enforcement talkgroups refer to "Use of Law Enforcement Talkgroups" (**EOM 203.01**).

*CNV CARS 1 – 4        "CARS1 through 4"*

Used as a car-to-car channel for direct, off RCS communications. Limited signal strength (line of sight). Used to re-establish incident communications under RCS failure migration plan.

Suggested use: Strike team and off RCS assignments to insure inter-crew safety. These channels **CAN** only be used in San Diego and Imperial Counties (FCC regulations).

CNV SDMARS "S.D. MARS"

In the event of a total failure of the 800 MHz radio system, or a site failure that precludes site trunking to operate efficiently, Incident Commanders or non-assigned field units are to attempt to contact Dispatch on CNV "SDMARS".

CNV FIREMARS "FIRE MARS" (*White 1 State-Wide/repeated or direct*)

In the event of a total failure of the 800 MHz systems, or a site failure that precludes site trunking to operate efficiently, this frequency will be used as an alternate dispatch channel.

ITAC 1 - 4 (International Tacticals 1 - 4)

Common tactical frequencies used throughout the United States, Canada, and Mexico. May operate in repeat or direct mode.

### **NORTH MUTUAL AID ZONE TALKGROUPS**

The North Mutual Aid Zone shall be used by agencies for incidents involving or potentially involving mutual aid in the North Cell. This includes all of Zone I & 2 (North Zone), Poway, and Valley Center. The Command and Tactical talkgroups are pre-assigned in the following manner:

North Com JPA	North Command 1 North Tac 1 North Tac 2	NMA NCMD1(1D) NMA NTAC1 (1E) NM1 NTAC2 (1N)
Escondido Fire	North Command 3 North Tac 5 North Tac 6	NMA NCMD3 (2D) NMA NTAC5 (2E) NMA NTAC6 (2H)
Alternate/Secondary	North Command 4 North Tac 7 North Tac 8	NMA NCM4 (1J) NMA NTAC7 (1K) NMA NTAC8 (2N)
North Com JPA	North Command 5 North Tac 9 North Tac 10	NMA NCMD5 (1L) NMA NTAC9 (1M) NMA NTAC10 (2O)

### **TALKGROUP IDENTIFICATION:**

The character display of a talkgroup will appear differently depending on the specific radio being used. This is due to the display limitations of different radios. To assist personnel with this issue, a list of display name abbreviations is provided below.

<u>TALKGROUP</u>	<u>DISPLAY</u>
Dispatch	Disp, D
Command	CMD, CM, C
Tactical	TAC, TC, T
Call	Call, CL

**PORTABLE RADIOS:**

Portables have been issued to each position on each apparatus to increase personnel safety, operational efficiency, and provide more flexibility to fire personnel. When personnel are working apart from each other and need to be contacted individually, refer to the examples listed below.

**PORTABLE RADIO ALIAS:**

The Zone has established the following numbering format and radio assignment system to effectively achieve a standard of emergency operation. Each radio has an assigned alias or number. An example of an alias would be 1412P1. This portable would be assigned to Engine 1412. The "P1" indicates that the portable is assigned to a specific user. Each radio is identified with these numbers. It shall be the responsibility of the Engineer to confirm each morning that the radios have been properly assigned to each company member.

In the event that a company must use a portable radio that is not normally assigned to it, it is important to notify Dispatch of the change. Dispatch will need to complete an "alias change". This will identify the replacement portable as belonging to the affected company by its transmitted identification. Should this change not take place, it would negatively impact an "Emergency Traffic" situation by transmitting the identification of a radio from a unit that is not assigned to the incident.

**MOBILE STATUS TERMINAL (MST/DEK) STATUS REVIEW:**

You will see "NO ACK" displayed upon depressing an MST/DEK button. At this time, there is no "HANDSHAKE" from the CAD that status has been received. If the radio is not affiliated with an RCS site, a "HONK" sound will be heard similar to attempting a verbal transmission.

**Responding (RESP)** If dispatched to a call and canceled prior to responding, personnel must activate AOR then AIQ. The only way to close an incident is with the AOR status. Otherwise the unit will still be attached to the

incident and the incident will remain open. RESP is status button 1 on the MST.

**Stage (STGD)**  
**(Optional)**

This mode is activated when the unit is staged for any reason. It will time stamp the staged time on the incident. Verbal identification of the staged location to dispatch is then time stamped. "Staged" (STGD) is status button 2 on the MST. Once the staged signal has been transmitted, personnel are to transmit the on-scene button of the MST.

**On scene (O/S)**

"On Scene" (O/S) is status button 3 on the MST.

**At Hospital (DEST)**

This will record the arrival at hospital time and put the unit's location at the hospital. There is no need to verbally advise Dispatch of this. At this time, the incident times will be automatically paged to the appropriate personnel. "At Hospital" (DEST) is button 5 on the MST.

**Available On Radio (A/OR)**

This mode must be used to clear the unit from an incident. This is the only status that will close a call. Personnel will also use this when leaving the station to do normal business or coming off of drill status. "Available on Radio" (A/OR) is button 6 on the MST.

**Available Local Area (A/LA)**  
**(Optional for Non-JPA Agencies)**

This mode is to be used after the "Available on Radio" (A/OR) mode has been selected. This will allow the unit to be considered for responses in the respective first-in station area. This mode must be used anytime the unit has traveled outside of its station area and is returning to its first-in area.

Example: Engine1411 is dispatched to a call on San Pablo Drive and they MST transmit "Available on Radio" (AOR) from the call. The computer will show Engine 1411 "Available on Radio" (AOR) with their last know location as San Pablo Drive. If Engine 1411 is not posted via "Available in Local Area" (A/LA), it will not be recommended for calls in its firs-in area. Once the "Available in Local Area" (A/LA) MST transmission is made, the computer will place the unit back to the longitude/latitude of Station One. This also applies when returning from drill status and the unit has traveled outside its station area. The computer will show the unit at the drill location until "Available in Local Area" (A/LA) has been

activated. It is imperative that the company officers make the decision to activate this status when wanting to be recommended for calls in their area.

The "Available in Local Area" (A/LA) is button 7 on the MST.

Note: If this status is not activated and the unit is back in it first in area, there is the potential to not be recommended for a call in the unit's first in area subsequently causing an inappropriate long response time.

### **Available in Quarters (A/IQ)**

If the unit is not placed in "Available in Quarters" (A/IQ) status when at the station, the unit will not receive any station alarm lights or tones for an incident. "Available in Quarters" (A/IQ) is button 8 on the MST.

### **CDF/Zone Agency Radio Plan:**

This radio plan will cover the responsibilities of the first arriving Officer on a wildland incident on SRA, or LRA lands threatening SRA lands in which California Department of Forestry (CAL-Fire) units are responding.

The first arriving Officer should give a report on conditions on the appropriate Local Government channel as assigned. In addition, a brief report on conditions should be broadcasted on the CDF Local Net, or Command channel if assigned to Monte Vista. Advise both Communications Centers if the fire is on SRA or LRA, and provide a potential size of the fire.

The first-in Local Government Incident Commander should contact the first arriving CAL-FIRE Incident Commander to discuss incident resource needs and who will place these orders. Several items need to be completed to ensure operational success:

1. One central ordering point is established.
2. Early communications, either face-to-face or radio, between agency Chief Officers needs to be established to decide incident objectives.
3. One Incident Radio Plan needs to be established and broadcast early in the incident.