

Re-deployment of Radio Channels:

- I. **The Jefferson County Fire Districts Fire Dispatch Standard Operating Procedures is modified as followed. This change is effective at 0800 on May 17, 2009.**

There will be a 60 day evaluation of this change. Should issues arise, the Best Practices Committee may make adjustments, or even abandonment, as necessary.

Primary Operations Channel:

Fire One (154.250) shall be the Primary Operations Channel.

The Primary Operations Channel shall be used for Low Priority incidents (such as single company response incidents).

Fire districts shall have their radios set on Fire One unless they are directed by Radio to use another Fire Operations Channel. The alert tone (“Sputnik”) preceding incident dispatches, will occur only on Fire One.

General communications, such as the reporting of motor vehicle accidents that are “happened upon” by fire units, shall take place on the Primary Operations Channel.

Secondary Operations Channels:

Fire Two (154.370), Fire Three (154.160) and Fire Four (154.400) will be Secondary Operations Channels.

Secondary Operations Channels shall be used for High Priority incidents. Examples of high priority incidents are structure fires, Level II or Level III Hazardous Materials Incidents (this does NOT include mitigations), and alarm sounding incidents. An incident to which three (3) or more companies respond should be considered as a high priority incident.

When radio dispatches a fire district to a high priority incident, radio shall assign the incident to an available Secondary Operations Channel and instruct responding units to use the assigned channel.

Secondary Operations Channels shall be presumed as “secured channels”. Unless a unit has been directed by radio to use a secondary channel, units shall not make transmissions on Secondary Operations Channels. (Testing may take place on Secondary Operations Channels when they are not in use at an incident).

Medium Priority Incidents:

The assignment of an operations channel for use at medium priority incidents (such as auto accident rescues) would be a judgment call made at the time of the incident. Radio can assign a medium priority incident to a Secondary Operations Channel upon dispatch or the Incident Commander may request assignment to a Secondary Operations Channel.

Factors to consider are the number of on-going incidents assigned to the Primary Operations Channel, or whether the incident would require numerous radio transmissions.

Request to use a Secondary Operations Channel:

An Incident Commander always has the discretion to request that an incident be assigned to a Secondary Operations Channel, should he anticipate numerous radio transmissions.

Mutual Aid Channel:

The Mutual Aid Channel may continue to be used to obtain times and run numbers from Radio. When this will occur, Radio shall be first requested/directed to switch to the Mutual Aid Channel.

The Mutual Aid Channel will also be available for use at special details as well as landing zone coordination for medical helicopters.

Other:

When units are directed to use a Secondary Operations Channel, a unit *need not* inform Radio on the Primary Operations Channel that it will be switching to the assigned channel.

When a unit has concluded its involvement at an incident to which a Secondary Operations Channel has been assigned, it shall inform Radio on the assigned channel that it is available. The unit shall then resume monitoring the Primary Operations Channel. The unit need not report to radio it is back on the Primary Operations Channel. The apparatus officer has the responsibility to assure the apparatus radio and all associated portable radios have been re-set to the Primary Operations Channel.