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Command and Tactical Radio Channel Assignments

PURPOSE:

To standardize the assignment of radio command and tactical channels, or talk groups for use by Fire and EMS agencies in dispatched by Heartland (HCFA).

ZONE 4 COMMAND & TACTICAL CHANNEL ASSIGNMENTS:

Channels will be assigned based on the incident type and Zone or area. Most incident types will be dispatched on a unique set of channels. Medical Aids, typically requiring minimal tactical communications, will have several incidents grouped together.

As a general rule Command and Tac channels WILL NOT be changed once assigned unless a change is requested by the Incident Commander, CM40, CM41, CM42 or the on-duty Supervisor.

ZONE 4 - IN ZONE RESPONSES	
Type of incident	Channels (Talk Groups)
Medical Aid Traffic Collisions (excludes Freeway TC)	CMD 1, TAC 1 or TAC 2 (see note section 1)
Vegetation / Wildland Fire (see note section 2)	SMA CMD 1, TAC 1 SMA CMD 3, TAC 5 SMA CMD 4, TAC 7 SMA CMD 5, TAC 9 HWY67 North of Vigilante use NMA CMD 5, TAC 9
All other incidents in zone, including: Freeway TC, Rescues, Structural fires, Haz-mat, Single Engine Response, Other (see Note Section 3)	Rotate between: CMD 2, TAC 3 CMD 3, TAC 5 CMD 4, TAC 7 CMD 5, TAC 9 CMD 2, TAC 4 CMD 3, TAC 6 CMD 4, TAC 8 CMD 5, TAC 10
Automatic Aid (Requests from other dispatch centers)	Use talk group or channel as assigned by requesting dispatch center

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NOTE SECTIONS:

Section 1 – Medical Aids

- When four (4) simultaneous incidents are in progress on TAC 1, additional incidents will be assigned to TAC 2
- If both TAC's 1 & 2 have four or more incidents, new incidents will continue to be assigned on CMD 1, rotating between TAC 1 and TAC 2
- Any incident upgraded to multiple units will remain on the existing CMD & TAC. Subsequent incidents will be assigned to the other TAC channel, unless otherwise directed by the Incident Commander (IC)

Section 2 – Vegetation / Wildland Responses

- RCS fire mutual aid talk groups will be assigned for vegetation/wildland responses.
- HCFA will utilize SMA CMD 1, TAC 1 or SMA CMD 1, TAC 2.
- Only one incident assigned to each TAC channel.
- If CMD channel has one working incident, the next available SMA CMD/TAC will be assigned by dispatch.
- Rotation Order:
 - SMA CMD 3, TAC 5
 - SMA CMD 4, TAC 7
 - SMA CMD 5, TAC 9

Section 3 - Rotating Channel Assignments

- Each new incident, except as otherwise noted, will be assigned one of the following Command and Tactical talk group combinations in the order shown:
 - 1- HND CMD 2, TAC 3 5- HND CMD 2, TAC 4
 - 2- HND CMD 3, TAC 5 6- HND CMD 3, TAC 6
 - 3- HND CMD 4, TAC 7 7- HND CMD 4, TAC 8
 - 4- HND CMD 5, TAC 9 8- HND CMD 5, TAC 10
- Only one incident will typically be assigned to each TAC channel.
- During major incidents a second Tac channel may be requested. Dispatch will assign an adjacent TAC not already in use.
- During high activity (flooding, high winds etc.) CM40, CM41, CM42 and/or the Supervisor have the authority to assign single engine responses to a common command channel for HCFA.

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Section 4 – Mutual Aid Responses Out of Zone

- When requests for mutual aid are received from ECHO I, dispatch will request a VHF frequency for the STRIKE TEAM LEADER to communicate with the INCIDENT COMMANDER.
- HND CMD 5, TAC 10 will be assigned as a RESPONSE or TRAVEL CHANNEL. After strike team has formed, the STRIKE TEAM LEADER will switch strike team units to CARS 1, 2, or 3, 4.
- San Diego City north of Hwy 52 & Hwy 67 Corridor north of Vigilante (ask North County Dispatch JPA for NMA channel) Channel typically will be NCMD 5, NTAC 9 (1st come first serve basis)

ZONE 4 - STRIKE TEAM / MUTUAL AID RESPONSES	
Type of incident	Channels (Talk Groups)
<p>All Areas: (see note section 4)</p> <p>South: Heartland (Zone 4) and San Diego City from Mexico Border to Highway 52.</p> <p>North: North County (Zones 1 & 2), San Diego City north of Highway 52.</p> <p>East: East county areas covered by CDF, USFS, and Inland Zone 8.</p> <p>Outside San Diego County:</p>	<p>Strike Team Leader is also assigned a VHF or 800 MHz channel to contact the Incident Commander as requested by Area Coordinator (Monte Vista).</p> <p>HND CMD 5, TAC 10</p> <p>CARS 1, 2 or 3, 4</p>

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ZONES 8 AND INLAND AGENCIES COMMAND & TACTICAL CHANNEL ASSIGNMENTS:

Though part of Zone 4, Barona will be dispatched on HND CMD 8, TAC 13

Rural Paramedics will be dispatched on HND CMD 9, TAC 15

Pine Valley, Boulevard, Campo and Intermountain will be dispatched on HND CMD 8, TAC 13

All other Zone 8 agencies will be dispatched on HND CMD 7, TAC 11

All Vegetation / Wildland Fires will be dispatched on EMA CMD 1, TAC 1

ZONE 8 RESPONSES		
HND CMD 7, TAC 11	HND CMD 8, TAC 13	HND CMD 9, TAC 15
Borrego Springs	Barona (Zone 4)	Rural Paramedics
Julian-Cuyamaca	Campo	
Ranchita	Boulevard	
Mt. Laguna	Pine Valley	
Ocotillo Wells	Intermountain	
San Pasqual		
Warner Springs		
Palomar Mountain		
Shelter Valley		
Sunshine Summit		
ZONE 8 VEGETATION/WILDLAND RESPONSES		
EMA CMD 1, TAC 1		
All Zone 8 Agencies		
Barona (Zone 4)		