
Ocean City Fire Department
Standard Operating Guidelines

Operations

Subject: Radio Channel Assignments
Revised: 6-14-11
Approved: 6-21-11
Effective: 6-21-11
Section: 426.00

426.01 Purpose

To provide separate channels for dispatch, EMS Operations, interior crews at fire scenes, and fire apparatus.

To have all interior crews on a designated channel at fire scenes in order to communicate without disturbance from apparatus or other radio traffic.

A designated fire ground channel will ensure the safety of crews working on a fire scene.

The fire ground channel will be monitored by Communications as a back up to the officer monitoring channel 3.

426.02 Policy

- A. **Channel 1** shall be designated as the dispatch channel; to be used solely for dispatches and emergencies.
- B. **Channel 2** shall be designated as the fire incident channel; specifically for small fire incidents; to be used by apparatus and interior crews. The fire apparatus mobile radios wake up on this channel. For larger fire incidents, this channel will be used for apparatus, water supply, and staging.
- C. **Channel 3** shall be designated as the fire ground channel for larger incidents; to be used by all interior crews, all manpower crews, and crews assigned to a task or specific area. Early in the incident, the IC or dispatch center will make the decision to switch interior crews to channel 3. The IC will call each interior crew to make sure they are on channel 3. Interior crews will need to have their portable radios set on channel 3. This practice is to be followed on all larger fire scenes.
- D. **Channel 4** shall be designated for Paramedic Units and/or any medical calls.
- E. These channel assignments may be altered when deemed necessary; i.e. busy periods, special events, and multiple calls.

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- F. On larger fire incidents the IC shall assign a second officer for channel 3. The IC will command the incident on Channel 2 (apparatus, water supply, staging, manpower pool). The second officer will monitor Channel 3 (conduct the fire ground operations, and monitor the crews).