
**Ocean City Fire Department
Standard Operating Guidelines**

Operations

Subject: Radio Channel Assignments
Revised: 04/05/2019
Approved: 04/22/2019
Effective: 04/29/2019
Section: 426.00

426.01 Purpose

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

1. To have all interior crews on a designated channel at fire scenes in order to communicate without disturbance from apparatus or other radio traffic.
2. A designated fire ground channel will ensure the safety of crews working on a fire scene.
3. Any assigned fire ground channel will be monitored by Communications.

426.02 Policy

The following channel assignments are specific to OC FIRE A ramp

- A. **OC FD 1** (position 1, mirrors position 16) shall be designated as the primary 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. Rotation of the radio channel selector all the way right or all the way left, places the radio on the primary fire channel.
- B. **OC FD 2 or OC FD 3** (position 2 and 3) shall be designated as a separate 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 separate fire ground channel. The IC will call each interior crew to make sure they are on the assigned fire ground channel. Interior crews will need to have their portable radios set on the assigned fire ground channel. This practice is to be followed on all larger fire scenes.
- C. **OC FD 4E** (position 4) shall be designated for messages and information deemed sensitive and private in nature. This is an

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encrypted channel and is not heard over public radio scanners or pagers.

- D. **OC FD 5** (position 5) shall be designated for Paramedic Units and/or any medical calls.
- E. **SUSSEX** (position 6) shall be designated for any mutual aid response to Sussex County, Delaware.
- F. **TROOPER** (position 7) shall be designated for communications with aviation assets assisting the OCFD. This channel shall be used for landing zone operations and transfer of patient care information.
- G. **WOFDISP** (position 8) can be used for communications with Worcester County, Maryland dispatch.
- H. **WOFIRE1** (position 9) can be used for communications with Worcester County, Maryland Fire Ground Channel 1. Note: Any time fire units are assisting Worcester County, Maryland; units shall switch to the Worcester County radio bank and then to the assigned fire ground channel. This procedure ensures that any emergency button activation at a Worcester County incident is received by and handled by the Worcester County dispatch center, "Worcester Central".
- I. **WOEMS2** (position 10) can be used for communications with Worcester County, Maryland EMS Operations 2. Note: Any time EMS units are assisting Worcester County, Maryland; units shall switch to the Worcester County radio bank and then to the assigned EMS channel. This procedure ensures that any emergency button activation at a Worcester County incident is received by and handled by the Worcester County dispatch center, "Worcester Central".
- J. **AGH ER** (position 11) is designated for communications with Atlantic General Hospital (AGH) via the 700mhz radio system.
- K. **EMRCCALL** (position 12) is designated as the Emergency Medical Radio Communications (EMRC) call channel.
- L. **EMRCMED8** (position 13) is designated as the Emergency Medical Radio Communications (EMRC) Med Channel 8.
- M. **OC FDEMG** (position 14) is designated as the EMERGENCY CHANNEL. This channel is for OCFD use only. Any activation of the emergency button (1 second push) will automatically switch the radio to this channel. In addition, any activation of the emergency button will initiate a 10 second "hot mic" for the initiating user.
- N. **OC FD D** (position 15) shall be designated as the dispatch channel; to be used solely for dispatches and emergencies. In an emergency, this channel is a transmit/receive capable channel.

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- O. **OCFD 1** (position 16, mirrors position 1) 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. Any rotation of the channel selector knob, all the way right or all the way left, placed the radio on the primary fire channel.
- P. These channel assignments may be altered when deemed necessary; i.e. busy periods, special events, and multiple calls.
- Q. On larger fire incidents the IC shall assign a second officer to monitor the assigned fire ground channel. The IC will command the incident on Channel 1 (apparatus, water supply, staging, manpower pool). The second officer will monitor the assigned fire ground channel (conduct the fire ground operations, and monitor the crews.

The following channel assignments are specific to OC FIRE B ramp

- R. **OC FD 1** (position 1, mirrors position 16) shall be designated as the primary 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. Rotation of the radio channel selector all the way right or all the way left, places the radio on the primary fire channel.
- S. **OC FD 2 or OC FD 3** (position 2 and 3) shall be designated as a separate 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 separate fire ground channel. The IC will call each interior crew to make sure they are on the assigned fire ground channel. Interior crews will need to have their portable radios set on the assigned fire ground channel. This practice is to be followed on all larger fire scenes.
- T. **OC FD 4E** (position 4) shall be designated for messages and information deemed sensitive and private in nature. This is an encrypted channel and is not heard over public radio scanners or pagers.

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- U. **OC FD 5** (position 5) shall be designated for Paramedic Units and/or any medical calls.
- V. **SUSSEX** (position 6) shall be designated for any mutual aid response to Sussex County, Delaware.
- W. **TROOPER** (position 7) shall be designated for communications with aviation assets assisting the OCFD. This channel shall be used for landing zone operations and transfer of patient care information.
- X. **WOFDISP** (position 8) can be used for communications with Worcester County, Maryland dispatch.
- Y. **WOFIRE1** (position 9) can be used for communications with Worcester County, Maryland Fire Ground Channel 1. Note: Any time fire units are assisting Worcester County, Maryland; units shall switch to the Worcester County radio bank and then to the assigned fire ground channel. This procedure ensures that any emergency button activation at a Worcester County incident is received by and handled by the Worcester County dispatch center, "Worcester Central".
- Z. **WOEMS2** (position 10) can be used for communications with Worcester County, Maryland EMS Operations 2. Note: Any time EMS units are assisting Worcester County, Maryland; units shall switch to the Worcester County radio bank and then to the assigned EMS channel. This procedure ensures that any emergency button activation at a Worcester County incident is received by and handled by the Worcester County dispatch center, "Worcester Central".
- AA. **OC FP** (position 11) is the channel for Fire Police operations.
- BB. **USCG** (position 12) is designated for communications the US Coast Guard
- CC. **STA 700** (position 13) is channel isolated for use only by the Ocean City Fire Department.
- DD. **OC FDEMG** (position 14) is designated as the EMERGENCY CHANNEL. This channel is for OCFD use only. Any activation of the emergency button (1 second push) will automatically switch the radio to this channel. In addition, any activation of the emergency button will initiate a 10 second "hot mic" for the initiating user.

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- EE. **OC FD D** (position 15) shall be designated as the dispatch channel; to be used solely for dispatches and emergencies. In an emergency, this channel is a transmit/receive capable channel.
- FF. **OCFD 1** (position 16, mirrors position 1) 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. Any rotation of the channel selector knob, all the way right or all the way left, placed the radio on the primary fire channel.
- GG. These channel assignments may be altered when deemed necessary; i.e. busy periods, special events, and multiple calls.
- HH. On larger fire incidents the IC shall assign a second officer to monitor the assigned fire ground channel. The IC will command the incident on Channel 1 (apparatus, water supply, staging, manpower pool). The second officer will monitor the assigned fire ground channel (conduct the fire ground operations, and monitor the crews).

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