Ocean City Fire Department
FIRE CHIEF'S INFORMATION BULLETIN
23-02

DATE	May 30, 2023
FROM	Fire Chief Richard R. Bowers, Jr.
SUBJECT	Station Alerting

Informational Bulletin: Station Alerting

The Ocean City Fire Department with direct support from the Ocean City 911 Communications Center and Chief Technologies will be implementing individual station alerting dispatch.

On May 30, 2023 at 0700 hours station alerting dispatch will alert individual Ocean City Fire Department Firehouses 1 through 5 when that station has an emergency response.

The transition from alerting all Ocean City Firehouses to individual Firehouse responses is an operational measure that requires patience from all Ocean City Departments and Chief Technologies as we work to dial in the alerting for our unique department responses.

Station Alerting Specifics:

1. NFPA 1221 requires multiple resilient alerting methods to each station. This is going to be accomplished by a manual relay activation initiated by a dispatcher through the radio console and the CAD data entered manually by the fire dispatcher that is then sent to Chief Technologies to process.

   a. Alerting method 1 – manual activation of fire / EMS relays for each station by the dispatcher.

   b. Alerting method 2 – dispatcher assigns units in CAD as a call for service and units are in the preassigned list for that station (see below for breakdown).

   c. Whichever alerting methods 1 or 2 arrive first at the station alerting will ignore the last arriving method to each station for 30 seconds to not "double alert" every call. *This will depend on when the dispatcher adds units due to the call and triggers the manual station activation relay.*

1 Fire	ENG11,TWR1,HRES1,PM1,PM11,ENG1,ENG11	Send If Fire (By Nature) and Unit in List
1 Fire	ENG11,TWR1,HRES1,PM1,PM11,ENG1,ENG11	Send If Silent Alarm (Nature Group) and Unit in List
1 EMS	ENG11,TWR1,HRES1,PM1,PM11,ENG1,ENG11	Send If EMS (By Nature) and Unit in List
4 Fire	TWR4,PM4,PM41,ENG4,ENG41	Send If Fire (By Nature) and Unit in List
4 EMS	TWR4,PM4,PM41,ENG4,ENG41	Send If EMS (By Nature) and Unit in List
4 Fire	TWR4,PM4,PM41,ENG4,ENG41	Send If Silent Alarm (Nature Group) and Unit in List
4 Fire	TWR4,PM4,PM41,ENG4,ENG41	Send If No Nature Group Linked and Unit In List
1 Fire	ENG11,TWR1,HRES1,PM1,PM11,ENG1,ENG11	Send If No Nature Group Linked and Unit In List

2. **Battalion Chief 7 will monitor citywide calls using the existing pager system. OIC bunk room volume control must remain up at HQ to hear radio traffic at all times. Room will alert for HQ calls when a HQ unit is assigned to a call.**

3. **Alerting for volunteer duty crews will be accomplished for fire calls only (Citywide) in fire bunkrooms at HQ and the fire relay being activated by the dispatcher, whichever arrives first.**

4. **Testing has been successfully completed to alert HQ for EMS calls throughout except fire bunkrooms.**

5. **Station 5 ignores all EMS calls – will activate for fire calls citywide.**

Radio/Speaker Station Alerting

1. **<u>Firehouse 1, 4 and 5</u> audio speakers will play live citywide broadcast (base radio traffic) at all times while volume controls are turned up above zero.**

2. **<u>Stations 1 and 5</u> have audio and visual alerting devices throughout as well as manual buttons in the apparatus bays and fitness areas along with doorbells at the entrances. Red illumination lights will activate for 60 seconds along with a colored indicator light based on the type of call for service.**

3. **At Station 4 only – because no volume controls are present, routine base audio traffic will shut off from 2200-0700. Calls for service at Station 4 will re-activate audio for 60 seconds after an activation and then shut back off. No activation lights at station 4 are present. FY24 funding will be available to update this station after a contract is awarded in July 2023.**

4. **Stations 1, 4 and 5 will only play audio for incidents related to their respective firehouse. The audio speakers will activate for an incident and stay live broadcast for 60 seconds.**

5. **At stations with volume controls - If the volume control is turned up you will hear every call that comes across the base radio. The volume control must be turned to at least two (2) at all times. The volume controls will override when a call for that station is due.**

6. **<u>Firehouse 2 and 3</u> there is no Chief Technologies hardware present. This system will only broadcast audio through the PA system from the base radio if either respective firehouse is alerted for an incident. The volume control <u>must not be turned downed at the Bogen AMP</u> or channel changed on the base radio or taken off scan (access to this mechanism is limited to only authorized personnel). The audio broadcast of the speakers for Firehouse 2 and 3 will be live for 60 seconds.**

Should a station alert not activate as indicated for an emergency incident response please notify your chain of command. In turn, the appropriate Officer will make contact with the OC 911 Communications Center and Chief Technologies. Trouble tickets for Chief Technologies can be submitted via the help desk at https://chief360.com/contact/contactus