

San Andreas Command Center
Tuolumne-Calaveras Unit
Radio Operating Plan



JUNE 2011

Scope

The Tuolumne-Calaveras Unit Radio Operating Plan shall be utilized by CAL FIRE and all Local Government Fire Agencies dispatched by the San Andreas Command Center within the administrative boundary of Tuolumne-Calaveras Unit. All cooperators utilizing any frequencies described in this document or attachments shall utilize this plan while operating as part of the Tuolumne-Calaveras Unit radio system.

Purpose

The plan is developed to comply with FIRESCOPE as well as provide common procedures and understanding of the communication system deployed in the Tuolumne-Calaveras Unit.

Procedure

Dispatch Frequency – TCU Local

This frequency will be used primarily as a method of communicating new emergencies and unit announcements as well as the primary command frequency when another is not assigned. Resource Units not assigned to an incident shall monitor this frequency.

The closest resources will be dispatched to all incidents in conformance with the standard response plan and local agreements. Resources in the vicinity of an

incident shall proceed in the direction of the incident. If they are not dispatched, they will advise the ECC of their location and availability after the dispatch is completed on the dispatch frequency. The ECC will advise whether they are to continue.

Primary Use

1. ECC dispatch of New Incidents
2. Field Report of New Emergency Incidents (See Emergency Traffic)
3. Lookout Smoke Reports
4. System Status Management assignments (i.e. Move-up / Cover)
5. ECC announcements
6. Fire Weather

Secondary Use

Secondary use of the dispatch frequency is limited to initial contact with another unit or station. This contact shall be limited to directing further communication needs via other frequencies or modes of communication (i.e. phone, pager, cell etc.).

Secondary uses of the dispatch frequency require prior authorization from the ECC for routine traffic.

Example:

Engine 4462: **“San Andreas, Engine 4462, is the air clear for routine traffic?”**

San Andreas: **“Engine 4462, affirmative”**

Command Frequency

This frequency will be used as a method of communicating while responding to emergencies and unit status changes. Units assigned to an incident and not at scene or staging shall monitor this frequency. The Incident Commander shall monitor the command frequency at all times. The command frequency will be designated by the geographical location of the incident for units assigned to the incident.

Secondary Use

Secondary use of the command frequency includes essential routine or administrative traffic and shall not interfere with emergency communications.

Tactical Frequency

This frequency will be used as a method of communicating while at the scene of emergencies. Units at scene or staging at an incident shall monitor the assigned tactical frequency. Incident Commanders shall monitor the assigned tactical frequency at all times. Tactical frequencies are approved for use in Tuolumne-Calaveras Unit and shall only be used as assigned by the ECC for incidents. **If there is a need for a tactical frequency for training, there is no need to ask the ECC unless several incidents are using tactical frequencies already. The preferred tactical frequencies for training/drills are VTAC 11, VTAC 12, and VTAC 13. (See Attachment B)**

Exception

Units assigned to staging for the purposes of scene security shall remain on the command frequency.

VFIRE

In Spring 2011, the White 2 and White 3 channels were narrow-banded, and the names were changed to VFIRE 22 and VFIRE 23. Additionally, VFIRE 26 will be added as a new Fire Interoperability tactical channel. The White 2 and White 3 naming conventions will no longer be used on incidents in California, effective June 1, 2011. White Fire 1 will stay the same until the end of 2012.

Aviation Frequencies

Aviation frequencies are no longer being assigned by Unit, instead they are now assigned by Air Base. The frequency is based on the zone of influence for the aircraft. Air Tactics 22 is the default frequency for the Columbia Air Attack Base.

LRA / MTZ Response

When responding to an LRA / MTZ incident, responding resources need to switch to the appropriate county's command frequency once entering Stanislaus or San Joaquin County. Each resource then must come up on that command frequency with its identifier and state which incident they are responding to. Each resource will remain on that assigned command and tactical frequency until released by the IC.

SRA Response to San Joaquin and Stanislaus Counties

The ECC will advise Stanislaus and San Joaquin County dispatch the incident number, command frequency, tactical frequency, and IC designator for their responding resources. Once responding, cooperating agencies must come up

on the command frequency with its identifier and state which incident they are responding to. Each resource will remain on the assigned command and tactical frequencies until released by the IC.

Incident Commander

The incident commander shall be assigned as follows:

1. ECC Officer - The ECC Officer shall be the IC until the arrival of the first qualified officer/unit.
2. Air Attack Officer - The air attack officer may be designated as IC until another qualified officer/unit arrives at the scene
3. Ground Attack Officer/Unit - The first qualified Officer/unit or chief officer who arrives at the scene will normally assume the IC from either the ECC Officer or the Air Attack Officer at an incident.
4. Authority Having Jurisdiction - The first qualified Officer/unit or chief officer from the authority having jurisdiction may assume the IC of an incident as incident needs dictate.
5. Upon arrival of the first IC, the ECC will advise that person and all additional resources assigned to that incident of that fact plus repeat the tactical frequency and time by broadcast announcement. If the role of Incident Commander changes during an incident, the ECC will broadcast the update to all units on the incident preceded by two-alert tones. A ranking officer arriving at scene (after assessing the necessity) has the authority to state "No change in command" or "Assuming command."
6. The Incident Commander is responsible for all units at scene.

Emergency Traffic

The following incident shall be prefaced by the use of the phrase "**Emergency Traffic**".

- **You or your crew are in peril and require an emergency response to your location.**

New Incident

The following incidents shall be prefaced by the use of the phrase **New Incident**".

- **You discover a new incident while responding to another incident.**

- You receive a walk-in or phone-in report of an incident that you are responding to.

Priority Traffic

The following incident shall be prefaced by the use of the phrase “**Priority Traffic.**”

- A non-emergency urgent message having precedence over routine traffic.

Routine Traffic

The following incident shall be prefaced by the use of the phrase “**Routine Traffic.**”

- Resource status, or a non-emergency message.

No other terminology prefaced with the word traffic is approved. (i.e. “urgent traffic,” etc.)

Status Change

The ECC shall be advised of status changes on the appropriate command frequency. This may include a change in status by the Incident Commander when assigned to an incident or a change in the response area or location of a unit. The ECC does not require notification of equipment movement within a station’s response area unless there will be a **15** minute delay or more. When a resource advises of a “delayed response” status, the ECC will acknowledge with the unit identifier and time. The ECC will reflect the status change in CAD. When you put yourself on a delay, you may be passed over for multiple other resources because on a delay you are unavailable in CAD even though you are still closer. The company officer is also responsible for notifying the ECC when back on normal response. As always, when you hear a dispatch and think you are the closest available resource, notify the ECC on the Dispatch frequency.

Move-Up/Cover

The ECC will be responsible for maintaining appropriate resource coverage in the Unit at all times. The ECC will immediately consider a Move-Up/Cover at the conclusion of each dispatch and thereafter as additional resources are committed and/or released. The ECC will consider the length and probability of commitment in addition to the location and ETA of cover units when assigning coverage.

Move-Up/Cover assignments will be made on the dispatch frequency. Cover assignments shall be made utilizing the individual tone of the station or engine to be moved on the Dispatch Frequency. The ECC may utilize the TCU ALL CALL between the hours of 0700 to 2100 when 4 or more stations need to be identified. The ECC shall announce to stations, equipment, and personnel to cover the appropriate stations as necessary. Units assigned will acknowledge their Move-Up/Cover location upon arrival if it is not their normally assigned station. Units will continue to monitor the dispatch frequency for new assignments/emergencies.

Example

Dispatch Frequency

San Andreas: “Engine 4473, cover Valley Springs Station. West Point Station, one engine cover Headquarters. Copper Fire Personnel, cover your station with a Type III Engine 4.0.”

Engine 4473: “San Andreas Engine 4473 in quarters Valley Springs Station.”

Personnel covering a station shall advise the ECC on the Dispatch Frequency or landline when equipment has been staffed. Personnel may be asked to maintain staffing if Unit coverage will be adversely impacted.

Units Staffed as a Result of a Call Back

Resources shall indicate their staffing level and geographic location upon staffing. Units shall acknowledge the directive (respond or cover assignment) given by the ECC.

Pre-Alert

All incidents involving CAL FIRE and/or Local Government Fire Agencies (dispatched by San Andreas ECC) in Tuolumne and Calaveras Counties will be pre-alerted on TCU Local Net (Dispatch Frequency). The pre-alert may include additional simul-selected frequencies based on the incident location and needs.

Example:

San Andreas: Three-alert tone, “West Point, Medical Aid 1234 Main Street”

Radio silence shall be maintained on the dispatch frequency between the pre-alert and the tones of an incident except in the case of new emergency traffic.

Tones

The ECC will tone individual units when the quantity of dispatched resources is four or less per dispatch. When the quantity of dispatched resources exceeds this level, the group page can be used. When receiving a group page, field units should recognize that they might not be dispatched to the incident. The TCU ALL CALL will not be used from 21:00 – 07:00 unless for a Unit wide message. The TUOLUMNE COUNTY ALL CALL and CALAVERAS COUNTY ALL CALL however, may be utilized at all hours. Radio silence shall be maintained between the tones and the dispatch of an incident except in the case of emergency traffic.

Check Back

Resources dispatched to an incident shall acknowledge their response to the incident when requested by the ECC on the appropriate command frequency during the incident check back. Resources responding to an incident that were not on the initial dispatch shall advise the ECC after the check back of their status. The ECC will then determine if it's appropriate to modify the dispatch for those units. Resources responding to incidents shall monitor the command frequency while responding. Typically, a check back occurs within 3 minutes of the initial dispatch during the day and 6 minutes after the initial dispatch at night. Exceptions to resources waiting for check back shall be limited to 1) Units arriving at the scene prior to check back, 2) Units having information that may change the configuration of the response, or 3) A brief report on conditions by the first arriving unit.

Life/Safety Alert

Life safety alert will follow CAL FIRE 8100 Handbook Procedure No. 002. The three alert tones identified in the policy will be used during a life/safety announcement such as "lines down." All units shall acknowledge receipt of the announcement by repeating the hazard during a check back.

Example:

San Andreas: "Engine E4475 Response Check Back And Acknowledge Power Lines Down"

Engine 4475: "Engine 4475 Acknowledges Power Lines Down."

Command

Communications from incidents will normally be from the IC to the ECC on Initial Attack incidents. Extended attack incidents may have other communication protocols established and an incident specific command frequency should be requested by the ECC (i.e. CMD I, CMD II) or IC. The exception to this is when reporting a Life/Safety Alert and the IC or Line Supervisor is not reachable. A field unit may have direct contact to the ECC in that event.

Resource Identifier

Use your FULL resource identifier for all radio traffic. Example, "Engine 4455", not "4455" or "55".

Staging

Resources arriving at staging shall advise the ECC on the command frequency. Units assigned to staging for the purposes of scene security on violent crime scene incidents shall remain on the command frequency so as to facilitate future communications with the ECC. Units staged for all other purposes shall switch to the tactical frequency assigned and communicate via the ICS system at the incident, while monitoring the command frequency.

At Scene

Resources arriving at scene shall advise the ECC on the command frequency prior to switching to the tactical frequency. Additionally, there is no need for responding units to state, "...at scene switching to tac". It is already known that units arriving at the scene of an incident are expected to switch to the assigned tactical frequency.

Expediting Resources

Requesting cooperating agencies and vendors to "**Expedite**" does more to alert responders of a situation rather than to "**Expedite**" anything. A current typical request may sound like:

Main IC: "**San Andreas, Main IC, expedite PG&E**"

Requests from this point forward will sound like:

Main IC: "**San Andreas, Main IC, notify PG&E we have lines down with fire and will not take action until they arrive.**"

Air Ambulance Operations

When protocol or initial report of conditions warrants, an air ambulance will be dispatched. The ECC will usually request an air ambulance to the scene or a known approved helispot nearby. If responding units determine there is a more appropriate helispot they will advise the ECC on the command frequency and the incoming air ambulance will be advised. The ECC will assign an LZ name. That name will be given by its location if it is approved LZ or mimic the incident name if at an incident. A helispot manager will be assigned by responding fire personnel unless in another jurisdiction. The helispot manager will switch to Cal-Cord for all traffic with the incoming air ambulance. If Cal-Cord is not available, any high band tactical frequency may be used as assigned by the ECC. The ECC is to be advised when the air ambulance has landed, when they lift off, and their destination (even if it is to return to base).

Initial Report of Conditions

When the first unit arrives at scene it is their responsibility to give an initial report of conditions using the following guidelines:

Structure fire

Confirm location, product of combustion (example: fire, light/heavy smoke, nothing showing), location of fire within structure, type of structure (single story, two story office building, etc.), initial action, and resource needs.

Vegetation fire

Confirm location, size of fire in acres, type of fuel, topography, wind direction, rate of spread, initial action, and resource needs.

Hazardous materials:

Confirm location, type of carrier transporting hazardous material if appropriate, whether incident is moving or static (spill confined or moving, cloud moving and its direction), if fire is involved, determine the materials involved (identify name, state (liquid, solid, gas), containers, quantity, ascertain the correct DOT numbers), and initial action.

Medical aid:

Confirm medical need. Request additional medical resources or cancel medical resources ASAP.

Traffic collision:

Location, number of vehicles involved, roadway blockage, injuries, additional needs, commitment time of units, and commitment of the medic unit. As a reminder, CHP orders the tow vehicles.

Disaster:

Confirm location and extent, confirm incident type, establish with ECC the correct disaster operating plan.

Can Handle with units “At Scene”/ Call Cancelled

When the ECC is notified of a “Can handle with units at Scene” or when a call is cancelled, the ECC will announce the cancellation on the Dispatch and Command Frequency preceded by a two-alert tone.

Example:

San Andreas: Two-alert tone, “The following units on TCU#1234 can cancel, Engine 4455...”

Available at Scene

Incident Commanders shall notify the ECC as soon as practical when units are available at scene. Units available at scene shall monitor the dispatch frequency and may be redirected to a new incident or Move-Up/Cover location.

Operational Summary

Units not assigned to incidents should scan the dispatch frequency as priority when monitoring additional command and tac frequencies.

Contacting the ECC

When contacting the ECC via radio; state your full identifier, frequency, and tone at the beginning of your transmission while out of normal response area.

Example:

E4483: “San Andreas Engine 4483 Local Tone 2”

TCU Local Tone Locations

- Tone 1 – Sierra Vista. – Mountain Ranch / San Andreas Area / Mokelumne Hill
- Tone 2 – Bear Mountain – Valley Springs / Jenny Lind Area
- Tone 3 – Fowler Peak – Murphys / Altaville / Copperopolis Area / San Andreas
- Tone 4 – Penon Blanco – Don Pedro Area
- Tone 5 – Blue Mountain – Arnold / West Point Area / MiWuk
- Tone 6 – Liberty Hill – Bear Valley / Pinecrest Area
- Tone 7 – Telegraph Hill – Twain Harte / Sonora / Jamestown Area / MiWuk
- Tone 8 – Mt. Lewis – Highway 108 Between Twain Harte & Pinecrest

Attachment A

| <i>IDENTIFIER</i> | <i>RX</i> | <i>TX</i> |
|---|------------------|------------------|
| CONSOLE CHANNELS | | |
| TCU Local Net (Rx Tone:136.5) | 151.1750 | 159.4500 |
| CDF Command 1 | 151.3550 | 159.3000 |
| CDF Command 2 | 151.2650 | 159.3300 |
| CDF Command 5 (NB) | 151.3175 | 159.3525 |
| TLU Command (NB) | 151.1300 | 158.6925 |
| Travel Net (CESRS) | 153.7550 | 154.9800 |
| OES Fire Net | 154.2200 | 159.1350 |
| Air Guard (Telegraph) (110.9 Tone) (NB) | 168.6250 | 168.6250 |
| White Fire 1 | 154.2800 | 154.2800 |
| RECEIVE ONLY CONSOLE CHANNELS | | |
| Air Tactics 4 (NB) | 151.2800 | |
| Stanislaus CO Fire | 153.7700 | |
| Stanislaus NF Ops Net (NB) | 168.7500 | |
| Amador Command | 153.9350 | |
| Calaveras CO SO | 45.3200 | |
| MMU Local Net | 151.4600 | |
| AEU Local Net | 151.1900 | |
| OTHER FREQUENCIES | | |
| Air Tactics 1 (NB) | 166.6750 | 166.6750 |
| Air Tactics 2 (NB) | 169.1500 | 169.1500 |
| Air Tactics 3 (NB) | 169.2000 | 169.2000 |
| Air Tactics 4 (NB) | 151.2800 | 151.2800 |
| Air Tactics 5 (NB) | 151.2950 | 151.2950 |
| Air Tactics 6 (NB) | 151.3100 | 151.3100 |
| Air Tactics 21 (NB) (Do Not Use w/CMD2) | 151.2725 | 151.2725 |
| Air Tactics 22 (NB) | 151.2875 | 151.2875 |
| Air Tactics 23 (NB) | 151.3025 | 151.3025 |
| CDF Tac 2 | 151.1600 | 151.1600 |
| CDF Tac 5 | 151.2500 | 151.2500 |
| CDF Tac 8 | 151.3700 | 151.3700 |
| VFIRE 22 | 154.2650 | 154.2650 |
| VFIRE 23 | 154.2950 | 154.2950 |
| Calcord | 156.0750 | 156.0750 |
| TLU Tac (NB) (Rx and Tx Tone of 136.5) | 155.4900 | 155.4900 |
| Cal Tac (Rx and Tx Tone of 136.5) | 153.8150 | 153.8150 |
| CDF Air to Ground (NB) | 151.2200 | 151.2200 |
| CAAB Victor Frequency (Base Frequency) | 123.9750 | 123.9750 |
| VTAC 11 (NB) | 151.1375 | 151.1375 |
| VTAC 12 (NB) | 154.4525 | 154.4525 |
| VTAC 13 (NB) | 158.7375 | 158.7375 |
| VTAC 14 (NB) | 159.4725 | 159.4725 |

Attachment B

| | | | | | |
|--|------------------|--------------|--|---------------------|-----------------|
| <u>CALAVERAS COUNTY</u> | | | <u>TUOLUMNE COUNTY</u> | | |
| <u>COMMAND NET</u> | | | <u>COMMAND NET</u> | | |
| CDF Command 2 | Mt Zion Tone 2 | North County | CDF Command 1 | Telegraph Tone 6 | North County |
| CDF Command 2 | Telegraph Tone 6 | South County | CDF Command 2 | Telegraph Tone 6 | North County |
| CDF Command 1 | Telegraph Tone 6 | South County | CDF Command 2 | Penon Blanco Tone 8 | South/Blanchard |
| CDF Command 5 | Fowler Tone 9 | South County | TLU Command | Fowler Tone 3 | North County |
| | | | TLU Command | Telegraph Tone 7 | North County |
| | | | TLU Command | Mt Lewis Tone 8 | East/Hwy 108 |
| <u>TACTICAL NET</u> | | | <u>TACTICAL NET</u> | | |
| 1st Choice | CDF Tac 8 | 151.3700 | 1st Choice | CDF Tac 2 | 151.1600 |
| 2nd Choice | CDF Tac 2 | 151.1600 | 2nd Choice | CDF Tac 8 | 151.3700 |
| 3rd Choice | CDF Tac 5 | 151.2500 | 3rd Choice | CDF Tac 5 | 151.2500 |
| 4th Choice | VFIRE 22 | 154.2650 | 4th Choice | VFIRE 23 | 154.2950 |
| 5th Choice | VFIRE 23 | 154.2950 | 5th Choice | VFIRE 22 | 154.2650 |
| 6th Choice | VTAC 11 | 151.1375 | 6th Choice | VTAC 11 | 151.1375 |
| 7th Choice | VTAC 13 | 158.7375 | 7th Coice | VTAC 13 | 158.7373 |
| VTAC 11 and VTAC 13 are in Grp. 3 Chan. 138 and 140 on the Kenwood | | | VTAC 11 and VTAC 13 are in Grp. 3 Chan. 138 and 140 on the Kenwood | | |
| Local Use Only Cal Tac 153.8150 Cal Tac can only be used in Calaveras County and only by TCU and Local Agency Equipment. No out of unit equipment has this frequency. | | | Local Use Only TLU Tac 155.4900 Tuolumne Tac can only be used in Tuolumne County and only by TCU and Local Agency Equipment. No out of unit equipment has this frequency. | | |
| <u>San Joaquin Co</u> | | | <u>Stanislaus County</u> | | |
| 1st Choice | CDF Tac 8 | 151.370 | 1st Choice | CDF Tac 2 | 151.160 |
| 2nd Choice | CDF Tac 2 | 151.160 | 2nd Choice | CDF Tac 8 | 151.370 |
| 3rd Choice | VFIRE 23 | 154.295 | 3rd Choice | VFIRE 22 | 154.265 |
| 4th Choice | VFIRE 22 | 154.265 | 4th Choice | VFIRE 23 | 154.295 |

Attachment C

Clear Text

The following are commonly used clear text terminology and phrases used by TCU.

| | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| Affirmative | Dispatch Frequency | Person Down |
| Air Ambulance | Disregard last message | Possible Suicide |
| All Clear | Emergency Traffic | Reduce the Assignment |
| At Scene | Emergency Traffic Only | Repeat |
| Automatic Aid | En Route | Report on Conditions |
| Available | Extrication | Return to _____ |
| Available at Scene | Fire Contained | Respond or Responding |
| Available in Quarters | Fire Out on Arrival | Respond PD/Respond SO |
| Available in Residence | Fire Reported Out | Resume Normal Traffic |
| Available in Response Area | Fire Controlled | Routine Traffic |
| Burning Operations | Helispot Manager | Stand-by |
| Call _____ by Phone | In Service | Stop Transmitting |
| Can Handle | In Quarters | Structure Fire |
| Cancel | Loud and Clear | Tactical Frequency |
| Check for Extension | Medic | Uncovered |
| Command Frequency | Mutual Aid | Unreadable |
| Copy | Negative | Upgrade the Assignment |
| Coroner Case (1144) | No Sign of Extension | Vegetation Fire |
| Delayed Response | Out of Service | Weather |
| | | What is your location? |

Approved Abbreviations for “Clear Text”

| | |
|-------------|--------------------------------|
| ALOC | Altered Level of Consciousness |
| DPA | Direct Protection Area |
| HBD | Has Been Drinking |
| ETOH | Ethanol Alcohol (Intoxicated) |
| FRA | Federal Responsibility Area |
| LRA | Local Response Area |
| MCI | Multi-Casualty Incident |
| MTZ | Mutual Threat Zone |
| PD | Police Department |
| SO | Sheriff's Office |
| SRA | State Response Area |
| UTL | Unable to Locate |
| 1144 | Confirmed Coroner's Case |

The following are commonly used radio identifiers of Fire resources or overhead used in the Incident Command System (ICS), which is adopted statewide:

| | | | |
|---------------|--------------|------------|--------------|
| Air Attack | Division | Logistics | Strike Team |
| Air Ambulance | Dozer | Medic | Supply |
| Air Unit | Dozer Tender | Operations | Tanker |
| Ambulance | Engines | Patrol | Task Force |
| Battalion | Group | Plans | Training |
| Branch | Finance | Prevention | Transport |
| Chief | Hazmat | Recon | Truck |
| Copter | Helitack | Repair | Utility |
| Crew | Helitender | Rescue | Water Tender |
| Decon | IC | Safety | |
| Dispatch | Lead Plane | Staging | |

The following is the phonetic alphabet adopted for Fire Service use:

| | | | | |
|-----------|----------|------------|-----------|----------|
| A-Alpha | G-Golf | M-Mike | S-Sierra | Y-Yankee |
| B-Bravo | H-Hotel | N-November | T-Tango | Z-Zulu |
| C-Charlie | I-India | O-Oscar | U-Uniform | |
| D-Delta | J-Juliet | P-Papa | V-Victor | |
| E-Echo | K-Kilo | Q-Quebec | W-Whiskey | |
| F-Foxtrot | L-Lima | R-Romeo | X-X-Ray | |