



ALBEMARLE COUNTY
FIRE RESCUE
TRAINING DIVISION

TRAINING BULLETIN

Subject/Topic: [New Paging System / Combined Dispatching](#)
Bulletin Number: 20110629 **Issued by:** Michael S. Lambert
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INTRODUCTION

Effective July 18th, we are changing how we utilize our 800 MHz radio system for dispatching and notifications (i.e. paging). Please post this bulletin to ensure that a basic understanding of the critical changes are understood by your members.



IMPORTANT!

- *The most prolific change comes in our dispatch procedures. There will be a talkgroup dedicated to dispatch of all units, and a separate talkgroup assigned to units with incident related traffic. In addition, we will still utilize TAC channels for mulit-unit incidents that require on-scene communications. Both an ALPHA and BRAVO TAC channel will be assigned as a default measure (ALPHA being analog, and BRAVO being digital).*

DISCUSSION

1. Dispatch

FRDISP talkgroup will be used for dispatching calls, and communications from field units that are NOT related to any incident that has already been dispatched. (Examples include marking units in/out of service, administrative messages or reporting an incident to the ECC).

FRRESP will be used by responding units for coordination with the ECC. This includes units marking-up as responding to an incident, on-scene, enroute to the hospital or clear from an incident. All units will operate on this talkgroup for the duration of an incident, unless transition to a TAC talkgroup is needed.

TAC Talkgroups (unchanged) will be assigned for operations at significant incidents such as structure fires, vehicle extrications, etc., where multiple companies need to be coordinated. The transition from FRRESP to a TAC talkgroup will usually occur upon arrival of each unit at the scene, unless a



responder in-charge, or the ECC, requests that all units switch over prior to arrival.

Talkaround and EVENT Talkgroups remain unchanged. TA1D and TA2D should be utilized for operations on scene as needed when normal communications through a trunked talkgroup are not possible (out of range). These talkgroups are located in Zone 3 (C zone on portable radios) in positions 1 and 2.

EVENT Talkgroups should be utilized for agency interoperability communications as needed. These talkgroups are common to all 800 Mhz users throughout the system. ECC will assign the appropriate EVENT talkgroup upon request. These talkgroups are located in Zone 3 (C zone on portable radios).

National Interoperability Talkgroups can be utilized for interoperability with other 800 Mhz users around the state or country. They include 8CALL90 for contacting other communications centers, and 8TAC91 for field operations. These talkgroups are located in Zone 3 (C zone in portable radios).

2. Notifications

Along with the changes in dispatch, all stations will receive new pagers, programmed as follows:

- A – Monitors all traffic on FRDISP and FRRESP
- B – Monitor FRDISP traffic
- C – Selective call on all programmed tones
- D – Selective call on limited tones only (OFF DUTY) mode

The only exception to the above programming is C-ARS; their pagers have a unique programming (exact details to be provided by your senior management).

In POSITION A, your pager will scan the assigned talkgroups continuously, and you will hear all transmissions across the selected talkgroups. In POSITION B, your pager will only receive transmissions over the FRDISP talkgroup. In POSITION C, pagers will remain silent until activated by a programmed tone(s); each station has created a unique profile as to the number of tones desired (function or rank specific).

While most of the above is self-explanatory, the OFF DUTY mode (POSITION D) requires a higher level of understanding. At the minimum, OFF DUTY modes include ALL SYSTEM, ALL COUNTY, and ALL MEMBER (station specific) tones. As an example, some stations only notify on-duty personnel for routine calls, and rely upon an ALL MEMBER tone for notification of off-duty personnel (as to prevent off-duty members from having to be alerted for every dispatched call). Further, anytime a

message needs to be broadcast to everyone in the county (i.e. announcements), an ALL COUNTY tone is activated. For notifications that are region specific, an ALL SYSTEM tone would be utilized (i.e. severe weather alerts).

Station specific programming will be available from your senior management.

SUMMARY

From a technical aspect, the changes in our dispatch and notification procedures are not as important as the functional differences. We expect a period of acclimation to the new procedures, and feel that the benefits of the new protocol outweigh the desire to maintain status quo. All units will achieve better communication across disciplines, and scene management (from a communication perspective) will be simplified.



